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# HIGH TIMES

September 452

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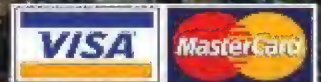
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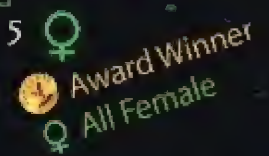
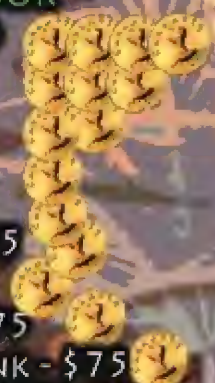
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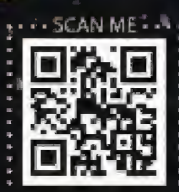
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# HIGH TIMES SEPTEMBER



*Every Jamaican excursion requires some degree of faith. You sit back and tell yourself that Jah will provide—and if for some reason He doesn't, you deal with it then.*

—Jamaican Harvest Tour, page 80

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## 43 The 15th Annual S.T.A.S.H. Awards

After scouring hydroponic trade shows, indoor micro-gardens and full-sized warehouse mega-grows, the *High Times* cultivation department reveals its picks for grow gear of the year.

## 54 Meet the Parents

A growing number of parents are speaking out about treating their children with pot. Brave Mykayla is Oregon's youngest medical marijuana patient. Find out how she is fighting leukemia with the aid of cannabis oil.  
*By Elise McDonough*

## 60 Bigger Plants, Better Yields

From larger plant containers, to smart pruning techniques, to deploying a simple trellis system, getting bigger yields from your garden come harvest time isn't a matter of pure luck, but one of simple science. *By Nico Escondido*

## 72 Top Glass

The art of glassblowing has been thoroughly transformed by an elite crew of artists who combine form and function to produce outstanding pipes and bongs that are also breath-taking displays of artistry. *By Dan Skye*

## 80 Jamaican Harvest Tour

Ever bought a bag of herb on the beach in Negril? Find out how it got there and follow a journey that starts in the ghettos of Kingston and ends in the lush herb fields of Westmoreland parish. *By Chris Simunek*

## 90 High Times Interview: Redman

Two decades ago, Redman first appeared on our cover, and since then the rapper, actor and record producer has proven to be a worthy choice—as well as a stalwart supporter of marijuana rights. *By Dan Skye & Danny Danko*



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# HIGH TIMES DIGITAL



Cannabis and glass are two of Julie Riggs' passions.

## ► Glass Artist of the Month

With dreadlocks flowing to her knees, Julie Riggs fires up her torch, takes a bong hit and sets out to create her amazingly fanciful pieces of art. Her work consists of sculptures, jewelry and sculptural pipes featuring sexy figures, fairies, angels, exotic flowers, trees, psychedelic mushrooms, skulls, creatures and, of course, her well-known and incredibly lifelike eyeballs.

She says her childhood was immersed in art of one form or another. But upon discovering the world of glass 13 years ago, Julie became obsessed. She approached local shops in her hometown of Virginia Beach, VA to seek out training, but she wasn't taken seriously. "Girls don't usually blow glass because they're afraid of burning themselves," head shop owners scoffed.

But artistic drive—coupled with her lifelong love of cannabis—enabled her to overcome obstacles. She set up a small metal shed, got some books, tools, a crappy video and taught herself for the first year. Her urge to learn motivated her to seek out top glass schools, classes, projects and competitions. She even trekked to Lauscha, Germany to learn their original techniques for creating prosthetic glass eyeballs.

Julie credits a wonderfully supportive family, amazing teachers and the "glass family" for helping her become one of the top female artists in the industry today. She now lives and works with her family deep in the majestic mountains of beautiful Oregon.



## ► Amsterdam on the Horizon

If you're looking for a super vacation with like-minded people from the international ganja community, start thinking about attending the 26th Cannabis Cup. We take Thanksgiving and turn it into a five-day harvest celebration! [Go to cannabiscup.com](http://Go to cannabiscup.com)

## ► Write to Us!

Want to write a letter to the editor? Got a question you need answered? Do you have a story idea that *High Times* absolutely must hear? Then write us at [heditor@hightimes.com](mailto:heditor@hightimes.com)



## Miss September 2013

NAME: **Kyra**  
 PROFILE: **Kyra**  
 AGE: **34**  
 CITY: **Grass Valley, CA**  
 OCCUPATION: **Grower, homemaker**

To enter or rate contestants, go to [misshightimes.com](http://misshightimes.com). You must be 18 years or older to enter.

DAN SKYE

### POT POLL

## Whatzername?

We have so many words with which to refer to our favorite plant. So we asked, "What's in a name?" Perhaps unsurprisingly, "weed" won handily. The word was coined in the 1920s and seems to have survived. But as the stats show, a lot of you have your own pet names which, we're sure, are highly creative. Commenters did complain, however, that we excluded "bud" from the list. What a mistake! Forgive us. We must've been high. Check out [hightimes.com/polls](http://hightimes.com/polls) and cast your vote in our latest poll.

- Cannabis...6%
- Marijuana...3%
- Weed...39%
- Pot...9%
- Ganja...7%
- Grass...1%
- Reefer...2%
- Dope...2%
- The Green...2%
- Doobage...1%
- I have my own special name...27%

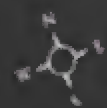
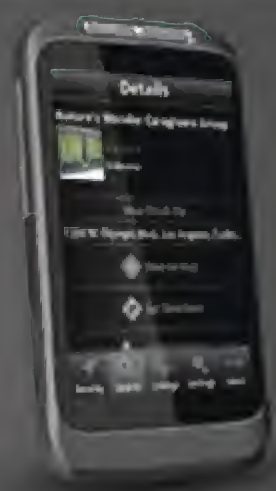
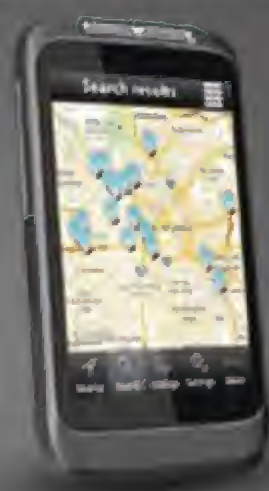
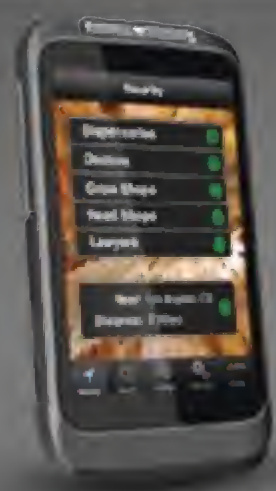
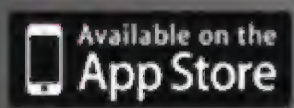
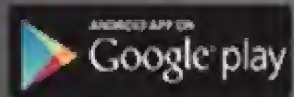




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# Pot and Parenting

**K**ids and pot don't mix. Marijuana is for adults only. This is the general message of the pro-pot advocacy groups, who argue that regulating cannabis like alcohol or tobacco would be the best way to prevent children from getting their hands on it (since



black-market drug dealers don't ask for ID). The biggest hurdle to freeing this plant has always been the drug warriors' ubiquitous, hysterical cry

of "What about the children?!", accompanied by the usual fear-mongering about promising teens being sucked into a black hole of addiction and despair after just a few tokes. This piece of Drug War propaganda has been incredibly successful, making young mothers the demographic most resistant to cannabis-law reform, and creating an enormous taboo when it comes to an honest discussion of pot use and parenthood.

Unfortunately, while the fight for cannabis freedom has progressed tremendously over the last several years, the rights of parents are still being trampled by agencies ostensibly charged with protecting kids. You can have guns, knives and cases of liquor in your house, but if Child Protective Services finds any pot, you're automatically assumed to be placing your kids in danger.

In rural California, medical marijuana patient Daisy Bram had her infant son literally ripped from her arms during a raid on a small, state-legal garden. Multiple sclerosis patient and prominent medical marijuana activist Lindsey Rinehart and her husband Josh (the director of Idaho NORML), returned from a hiking trip to find that cops had removed their two sons from the baby-sitter's care after finding a small amount of cannabis in their home. Over and over, we see the same pattern: federal, state and local governments using kids as pawns in their frenzy to target activists, hippies, growers and anyone else they wish to control.

Not only is cannabis not "endangering" 7-year-old Mykayla Comstock, it's helping her fight leukemia and possibly even saving her life. Turn to page 54 where we share the story of Oregon's youngest medical marijuana patient, and how her brave parents are determined to spread the word about the healing and other medical benefits that cannabis can bring to sick children.

As the struggle to fully legalize cannabis continues, we need to enshrine the rights of parents to use cannabis responsibly, protect the families of medi-pot patients, and reform the laws that allow the authorities to remove kids from their parents' home simply because pot is present. The insane policy of ripping families apart over a healing herb needs to end. Using marijuana does not equal child abuse, especially when this plant is keeping a parent or child alive and healthy. We need a brand new dialogue about kids, parenting and pot.

*Elise McDonough*  
Production Director

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**Welcome Home?**

I am a medical marijuana patient and grower in Mesa, AZ, and I recently re-subscribed to your great magazine. I was reading this month's issue about the harassing tactics used on Colorado's out-of-state drivers, and a thought came to me, as I'm sure it has to many others: Exactly how many POWs from the War on Drugs have been released by the overlords in either Colorado or Washington now that recreational use has been legalized? It must be quite a few, so why no parades? Or maybe I should ask: Since simple use and personal-use possession are no longer a crime, why no releases? My guess would be that there's still too much money to be made (in terms of cops, guards, and building and operating prisons).

*Kevin*

That's an excellent question. Unfortunately, there hasn't been the sort of mass commutation of sentences that you might expect. Any such movement would certainly have *High Times*' support.

**The Negatives of Testing Positive**

I want to apologize in advance, since I'm pretty sure I will more than likely be wasting your time with this. I'm 28 and in great physical shape. I am very respectful, appreciative and fairly intelligent. Recently, I worked for the government for about three years—I was even named "Officer of the Year" in 2010 and received multiple promotions and recognitions. Then I got fired for failing a drug test in 2011. I don't do drugs other than pot, and I just enjoy smoking a nice bowl after a hard day of work or school. It's been 20 days since I last smoked. (I made the decision not to smoke starting on 4/20; my last day was 4/19, and boy was it tough—and sad—not to partake in the festivities!)

I've been looking for work for about a year now, and today I got a break: I had an interview and was very successful. Unfortunately, because they were so interested in me, they did a drug test on the spot—and, to my surprise, I *still* tested positive for THC, which means that I missed out on a great opportunity. So now I'm broke, that particular possibility for a job is gone, and I'm trying to educate myself on what I can do to get this out of my system.

I know the basics—how THC sticks to fat cells, etc.—but with so many myths out there, I figured I would try to get the best answer from one of my favorite magazines. I'm planning to sell a



## Exactly how many POWs from the War on Drugs have been released by the overlords in either Colorado or Washington now that recreational use has been legalized?

few electronics, etc., around here to get a few bucks to maybe buy supplements or whatever might be needed to be able to pass. I figure it's worth the investment. I think it's criminal to be put in this situation because of a harmless substance, but I know I'm preaching to the choir. I will continue with my research and sincerely appreciate any information you might be able to provide.

*Cesar C.*

First rule: There are no guarantees when it comes to beating a drug test. It's a cat-and-mouse game, and sometimes the mouse gets caught. The vast majority of workplace drug tests in this country are inexpensive screens that are easily beat. But sometimes (not often) private employers will pay for more expensive testing platforms like a gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) test, and you'll never know which one is being used because asking that question only draws the wrong kind of attention.

That said, the odds are in your favor. In your letter, you state that you're a young man in "great physical shape," which implies little body fat and a fast metabolism. I also assume that you're a long-time daily (i.e., "heavy") smoker, which is probably why you still failed after 20 days without getting high. The good news is that you should be clean

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in another week. It takes the system of a heavy smoker with little body fat about three to four weeks to detox naturally.

My friend Clyde (not his real name) is short, overweight, out of shape, and has been a very heavy smoker for a solid 30 years. It recently took Clyde 46 days to detox naturally and pass the test. We suggest you drink six glasses of water a day for the next week. That's enough to assist the detox process without coming up as a "dilute" on the test. By day 30, you should be ready to pass. If you fail after that, we suggest you question the accuracy of the test.

**More Terpenes!**

In your May 2013 issue, there was an article called "Talking Terpenes." I found this article to be amazing, and I truly just can't say enough about it. But while it was fascinating, it did leave me with a couple of unanswered questions, and I am hoping you can shed some light on them.

Is there a list available of which marijuana strains are best for giving relief for a particular ailment? (For example, which strain will give me relief from pain, either with or without a head stone or body stone?) So, basically, I am looking for a list of all strains that have these

terpenes. Is there such a list?

Any light you can shed on this matter would be greatly appreciated!

*Terpene-ized*

Martin A. Lee responds: I'm not a doctor, so I'm not qualified to offer medical advice. Also, I don't know what kind of pain you're experiencing. If it's neuropathic pain—the kind that's all too familiar to people with AIDS, cancer, rheumatism, multiple sclerosis, diabetes or nerve injuries—then there's ample scientific research indicating the efficacy of CBD in combination with THC for this type of chronic pain.

The terpenes in this case are probably less important than the CBD. If you're looking for something with less psychoactivity, there are CBD-dominant strains and extracts available in some medical marijuana states. With regard to accessing measurable doses of CBD-rich extracts, I suggest that you contact the Patient Information Center, either by phone (424-253-4615) or email [info@patientinformationcenter.com](mailto:info@patientinformationcenter.com).

I post a lot of information about CBD and cannabinoid therapeutics on Project CBD's Facebook page. And I encourage you to check out *Smoke Signals*, my recently published book, which discusses CBD in some detail. Plus O'Shaughnessy's, the journal of cannabis in clinical practice at [beyondthc.com](http://beyondthc.com), will also have a lot of material pertaining to your interests.



# A Better Grow Box Means *Better Crops.*

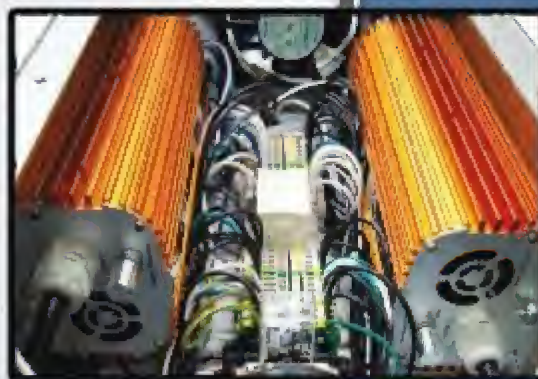
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September 2013 *High Times*

**BIGGER PLANTS, BETTER YIELDS** Bigger yields are usually synonymous with commercial buds and lower quality, but that does not have to be the case. Growers can achieve harvests of both high quality and bigger yields by deploying simple horticultural techniques like the net trellis system used in this garden. For more on creating bigger plants and bigger yields turn to page 60 for Nico's full story. *Photo by Lochfoot*

**Contact  
High**

**Contact  
High**

**GYPSY WARRIOR** Two stars of the glass world revved up their creative engines to collaborate on "Gypsy Warrior," a flame-worked, borosilicate glass chopper. Hops & Doshworld, two of our recent Glass Artists of the Month, demonstrate that glass artists can replicate whatever idea their imagination spawns. Read more in our feature "Top Glass" on page 77.





**Contact  
High**

**GANJA HARVEST** Check out these recently harvested buds grown in the hills outside of Negril, Jamaica. It was a long, sweaty trek through thorns and barbed wire, but *High Times* was finally given entrance to some of the island's hidden gardens. Read the story on page 80. *Photo by Brian Jahn*







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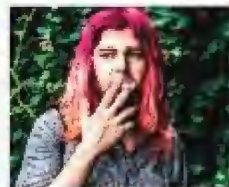
Cuba's  
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## Entertainment

### Ariel Pink on the Green

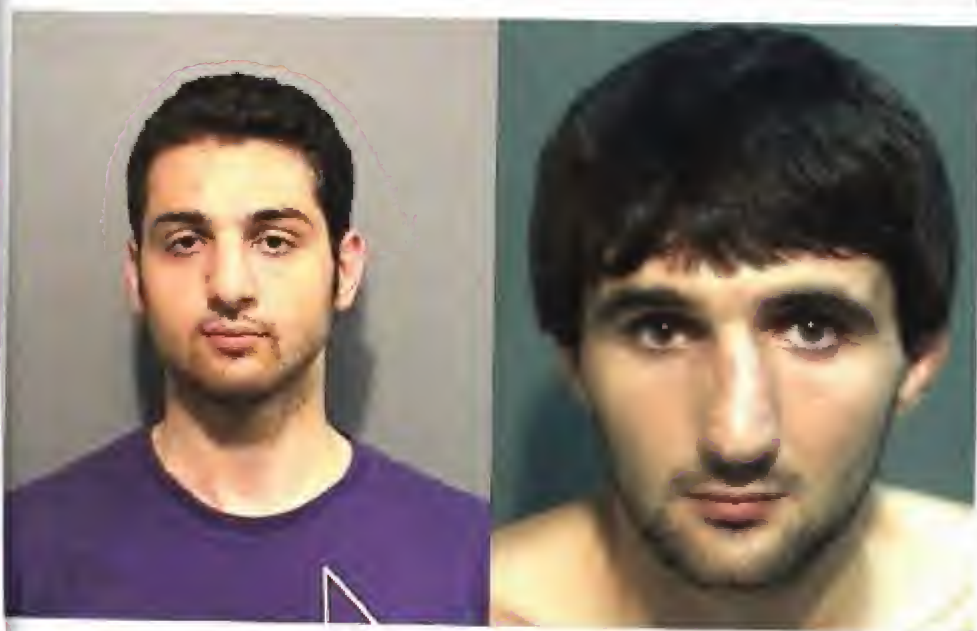
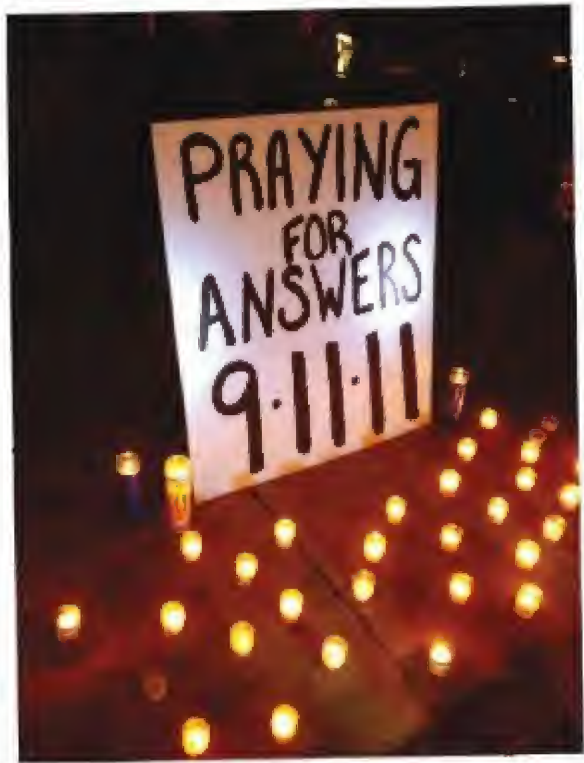
The indie stoner gets high to write new tunes. p.30



## Food

### High-Flying Fondue

A sweet dip that's a knockout treat. p.34



From left: A memorial for the Waltham murder victims; Boston bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev and fellow Chechen Ibragim Todashev, both implicated in the murders and killed by police.

## Marijuana Murders Tied to Terrorist

Boston bombing suspects likely behind unsolved triple homicide in Waltham, Massachusetts. *By Bobby Black*

On September 12, 2011, the bodies of three young men were discovered in an apartment in Waltham, MA. Among them was 31-year-old Erik Weissman—one of the co-owners of Hitman Glass, and a friend of mine. It was Erik who turned me on to my first dab, gifted me my first oilrig, and assisted me in putting together my first dab feature. Aside from being a brilliant businessman on the cusp of immense success, he was also one of the nicest, most generous guys I knew ... which made the circumstances of his death so difficult to understand.

The crime scene was a gruesome one, described by one investigator as “the worst bloodbath I’ve ever seen in a long law enforcement career.” According to the *Times of Israel*, the victims had been dragged into separate rooms, where the killer(s) inflicted multiple knife wounds,

slashed their throats so deeply that they were nearly decapitated, and then covered the corpses with marijuana.

Sadly, as I reported in my interview with Weissman’s partner Dougie Fresh (May ’13), the case remained cold for a year and a half, with investigators unable to establish any motive, suspects or leads. That is, until April 21, when I saw Erik’s picture flash across the screen during a CNN report on the Boston Marathon bombings and felt an icy chill run up my spine. It was only then that I learned the identities of the other two victims, Raphael Teken and Brendan Mess—the latter the “best friend,” sparring partner and former roommate of bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev. The FBI was investigating possible links between Tamerlan and the unsolved triple homicide, and the circumstantial evidence was beginning to mount.

For example, it was during the months leading up to the murders that family and friends noticed a change in Tamerlan’s behavior: He’d stopped drinking alcohol and began growing his beard and talking more about Islam. And it was directly after the murders that he left for his six-month visit to Chechnya and Dagestan, where *Time* magazine reported that he “became very close” to his distant cousin Magomed Kartashov, “one of the region’s most prominent Islamists.”

A member of Mess’s family told police that he was aware of some tension between Brendan and Tamerlan “over Brendan’s lifestyle,” and he considered it odd that Tamerlan didn’t attend the funeral of his “only American friend” (as he reportedly described Mess). According to police reports, neighbors saw two men leaving the house on the night of the murders, but there were no signs of forced entry—suggesting that the victims knew their assailants. Also, Tamerlan

« lived just blocks from the victims' apartment, and cell-phone records placed him and his younger brother Dzhokhar in the area at the time of the killings.

These same cell-phone records led the FBI to question Tamerlan's friend Ibragim Todashev—a fellow Chechen martial artist from Watertown, MA, who had recently moved to Orlando, FL. Investigators told NBC News that Todashev was initially cooperative with them and that, as a result of their questioning, they had determined that he had no role in the bombing. Then, during what was supposed to be his final interview on the night of May 21, things took a surprising turn when Todashev allegedly admitted that he and Tamerlan had committed the Waltham murders. But in the midst of writing out his confession, Todashev suddenly “went crazy,” flipping over a table and lunging at the FBI agent.

“They got him to confess to the homicides, and they say, ‘Let’s write it down,’ and he starts writing it down,” a senior official told the *New York Times*. “He goes to get a cigarette or something and then he goes off the deep end. I don’t know what triggered him, and he goes after the agent.”

It was at this time that officers opened fire, shooting him seven times—including once in the head—and killing him. Initial reports stated that Todashev had attacked the agent with “a knife or a pipe or something,” but two of the three unnamed sources who reported the knife later backtracked, saying they weren’t sure exactly what had happened. Then on May 29, The Huffington Post reported that an unnamed FBI source confirmed that Todashev was in fact unarmed when he was shot. Needless to say, the circumstances appear rather suspicious, with family and friends of the suspect insisting that he was not a radical and claiming that he expressed fears of being set up before his death.

“He told me, ‘They are making up such crazy stuff,’” said Khusen Taramov, one such friend, speaking to NBC affiliate WESH in Orlando. According to Taramov, Todashev was concerned by the course of the interrogations, telling him: “I’m answering the questions, but they are still making up some, like, connections, some crazy stuff. I don’t know why they are doing it.”

Also suspicious is the alleged motive that Todashev provided for the murders. According to law enforcement officials, Todashev confessed that Weissman, Teken and Mess were killed as the result

## **If it was a drug ripoff, why leave the \$5,000 cash and seven pounds of marijuana behind? And why slaughter the victims in such a brutal and symbolic fashion? These factors seem to indicate a far more personal, perhaps even religious, motive.**



**Erik Weissman at a family seder**

of a botched drug ripoff, to keep them from identifying the perpetrators. But if it was a drug ripoff, why did he and Tamerlan leave behind \$5,000 in cash and seven pounds of marijuana? And why slaughter the victims in such a brutal and symbolic fashion? These factors seem to indicate a far more personal, perhaps even religious, motive.

Think about it: The “Waltham 3” were all involved in selling marijuana, and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, Tamerlan’s younger brother, was an admitted pothead who, according to the *Atlantic Wire*, was a “go-to source for marijuana on campus” at the University of Massachusetts. Therefore, it’s possible that the victims were supplying him with weed.

“Given how religious the older brother was, and we have heard information from the college about how the younger brother was a pothead, is there a chance that Tsarnaev was angry that Brendan was selling his brother marijuana?”

posited one unidentified source involved with the investigation. “We don’t know, but we’re certainly interested in finding out.”

In addition, all three victims were devout Jews with ties to Israel. A memorial tree for

Weissman was planted in the country after his death, and Teken was even buried there. Plus, in messages between Tamerlan and his mother intercepted by Russian authorities, he reportedly discussed jihad and his “willingness to die for Islam.” His mother suggested that he go fight with the Palestinians against Israel, to which Tamerlan replied that he couldn’t because he didn’t speak Arabic.

Given all this, it’s hardly a stretch to postulate that a radicalized Tamerlan came to view Mess and his two Jewish roommates—who were possibly selling pot to his little brother—as enemies of Islam of whom an example could be made. Nor is it difficult to believe that, having watched jihadist videos online and wishing to prove himself a Muslim warrior, he could have decided to “behead” them on the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

With the results of DNA tests from the crime scene still pending, Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan issued a statement saying that the Waltham murder investigation “is by no means closed.” But these latest developments seem to raise more questions than they answer. Were the murders the result of a robbery gone wrong, or were they a hate crime? If the former, why did the killers leave all that cash and marijuana behind? If the latter, why did Todashev become involved—and was Dzhokhar involved as well? Also, after being so cooperative through many hours of interviews—even to the point of confessing to three murders—why would Todashev suddenly decide to attack a federal agent? And perhaps most importantly, if the police had done a better job of investigating the Waltham murders to begin with, could the Boston Marathon bombing have been prevented?

With Tamerlan Tsarnaev and now Ibragim Todashev dead, our last hope for answers rests with Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. If he can’t provide them, Erik’s family and friends (myself included) may never get the closure we so desperately desire. ✨

For updates on this developing story go to [hightimes.com/waltham3](http://hightimes.com/waltham3)





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## Religious Opposition

A recent survey conducted by the Public Religion Research Institute and the Religion News Service asked 1,000 Christians and religiously unaffiliated Americans about pot. Thirty-nine percent of all Christians surveyed said they support the legalization of recreational pot, with 54 percent opposed. Of the nonreligious participants, 66 percent favor legal weed. Clearly, religious objections dragged down the overall pro-legalization position to 45 percent, a lower figure than the recent Pew Research poll, which found a record 52 percent of Americans in favor.

Not surprisingly, only 29 percent of the evangelical Christians surveyed favor legalization. The numbers are slightly better for Catholics and minority Christians (40 percent each), while mainstream Protestants weigh in at 49 percent in favor. According to the survey, Catholics were the least likely to have gotten high at any time in their lives, at 33 percent.

A marked disparity also exists between the different demographic groups among the faithful: 50 percent of Christians ages 18 to 29 favor legal pot, while only 22 percent of Christian seniors support it. However, a mere 23 percent of Christians surveyed believe that using pot is a sin, and only 35 percent think that legal recreational pot in Washington and Colorado is a sign of declining moral standards in America.



## Growing Support for Growing

As support for legalization in America grows, an obvious question arises: Someone's gotta grow it, right? According to a recent HuffPost/YouGov poll, 47 percent of adults back legalizing cultivation, with 37 percent opposed. (The survey didn't specifically distinguish between recreational and medicinal cannabis.) An outright majority support industrial hemp farming: 56 percent, with only 24 percent opposed. As usual in pot polls, legal cultivation found more support among males and Democrats.

## Children Snatched From Activists

It's comforting to know, in this age of high-tech law enforcement, that the police department in Boise, ID, relies on schoolyard rumors when it comes to taking kids away from their parents. In April, the four sons of three Boise marijuana activists were removed from a baby-sitter's care by cops. They were seized while Lindsey and Josh Rinehart, parents of two of the boys, and Sarah Caldwell, mother of the other pair, were away on a short trip. The boys were placed with Child Protective Services.

Lindsey Rinehart is the director of the medical pot legalization organization Compassionate Idaho, while Josh heads Idaho NORML, and Sarah Caldwell is the director of Idaho Moms for Marijuana. Following the incident, the Rineharts and Caldwell held a press conference on the steps of the state capitol to explain and protest what happened to their kids.

Lindsey told the media that a rumor at the boys' school—that a child had brought pot or edibles to school and that other children had consumed them—motivated the police to act: Relying on these “hard facts,” Boise cops secured a warrant and snatched the kids, alleging that the Rineharts were dealing pot and causing injury to a child. While the cops did find marijuana (of the medicinal-use kind) in their home, the Rineharts steadfastly denied any trafficking. Furthermore, no evidence emerged that the pot was ever taken to school.

Lindsey Rinehart uses marijuana to treat her multiple sclerosis, but she was forced to abstain from use in order to get her boys back. After 30 days, the authorities will determine if her home is “safe” enough to allow the children to return.



## Breathalyzers Blow!

A recent study on breathalyzers and illegal drugs published in the *Journal of Breath Research*, which discusses the results of a new detection technology developed in Sweden, could directly impact toking drivers across America. Researchers at the Karolinska Institute created the Exabreath technology, a filtration system that captures only aerosol vapor (i.e., no saliva) emitted from the lungs inside a so-called “DrugTrap.” The material is then sent off for chemical analysis to determine which, if any, drugs have been used by the person being tested.

The Karolinska study involved 40 participants, many of whom consumed one of a number of different drugs, both legal (prescription meds like diazepam and buprenorphine) and illegal (pot, methamphetamine, cocaine), one day before blowing into the device. In all, the use of 12 distinct drugs was detected by the researchers among the 40 subjects.

“Considering the samples were taken 24 hours after the intake of drugs, we were surprised to find that there was still high detectability for most drugs,” said the study’s lead author, Professor Olof Beck.

Of course, Professor Beck’s remark also underscores the basic problem here: People will blow positive for weed even though they’re now as sober as the judge who will eventually sentence them on a bullshit “per se” DUI charge. Currently in the US, it’s illegal to drive in 17 states with *any* detectable amount of cannabis in your blood, no matter when it was consumed.

No link between toking up and cancer.



## Worry-Free Inhaling

People who smoke cannabis habitually are at no greater risk of lung cancer than those who smoke it occasionally or not at all. So concludes new data presented by a team of researchers from UCLA at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research in April.

The investigators analyzed data from six case-controlled studies conducted between 1999 and 2012, involving over 5,000 subjects. The researchers reported: “Our pooled results showed no significant association between the intensity, duration or cumulative consumption of cannabis smoke and the risk of lung cancer overall ....”

Separate clinical-trial data presented by Kaiser Permanente researchers at the annual

meeting of the American Urological Association in May indicates that cannabis consumption is associated with a *lower* incidence of bladder cancer. Researchers compared the risk of bladder cancer in more than 83,000 men who smoked tobacco cigarettes only, marijuana only or both. “Cannabis use only was associated with a 45 percent reduction in bladder cancer incidence,” the study found, while “tobacco use only was associated with a 52 percent *increase* in bladder cancer” (emphasis added).

Numerous preclinical studies have documented that cannabinoids possess potent anti-cancer properties, including inhibiting the growth of lung, breast and prostate cancer cells. To date, however, no clinical studies have been conducted to replicate these findings in human subjects.

## Cannabis Oil Miracles

It’s been called by various names: Rick Simpson oil (or RSO), Milagro oil, hemp oil and phoenix tears. It’s an easy-to-prepare cannabis oil that, so far, has saved the lives of more than two dozen California cancer patients—and could ultimately hold promise for millions more across the nation.

Expert medical pot cultivator and East Bay resident Constance Finley has provided cannabis oil to 26 cancer patients referred to her by an anonymous oncologist. The patients were suffering from a variety of Stage IV cancers—a virtual death

sentence—affecting their lungs, colon or brain. So far, 25 of those patients have lived: an astonishing 96 percent survival rate for people at Stage IV. Technically, the cancer isn’t considered “gone” until a patient has lived five years without the tumors regrowing, but the results so far could lead to a revolution in homeopathic oncology treatment.

Finley’s formula uses 99-iso-propyl alcohol as a solvent to remove most of the pot’s plant matter, leaving behind an oil that consists of roughly 83 percent active ingredients: 72 percent THC and 11 percent CBD, which renders the oil extremely potent. Like most cancer treatments, it’s pricey,

but not anywhere near Big Pharma’s league: A two-month supply of Finley’s oil is \$5,500.

One of Finley’s patients is Michelle Aldrich, who was honored, along with her husband Michael, with the High Times Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2011 High Times Medical Cannabis Cup in San Francisco. Aldrich was diagnosed with lung cancer in January 2012. After a combination of Finley’s oil, chemotherapy and an improved diet, her tumor shrank, allowing her surgeon to remove it five months later. Aldrich has been essentially cancer-free since. Her most recent CT scan in March 2013 came up clean—meaning no new tumors.

HIGHWIRE

## Dispatches from the international drug war. *By Bill Weinberg*



Just say "O"

### Afghan Opium Crop Once Again Breaks Record

Opium cultivation in Afghanistan is expected to increase for the third straight year, even expanding to new areas, warns a report by the UN Office of Drugs and Crime released on April 15. Afghanistan currently produces about 90 percent of the world's opium. British and US agricultural advisers have encouraged local farmers to switch to cotton, but low prices have forced many to switch back. Of the two large cotton-ginning plants built in Helmand Province, one lies idle, with acres of unsold cotton piled in a nearby field.

### DEA Charges African Army Chief With (Phony) FARC Ties

The US Department of Justice on April 15 accused Gen. Antonio Indjai, the top military official in the West African nation of Guinea-Bissau, of plotting a cocaine-for-weapons deal with Colombia's FARC rebels.

However, the suspects involved in the transaction, who reportedly pledged the cooperation of Indjai and President Manuel Serifo Nhamadjo, were actually talking with DEA agents posing as FARC operatives. For his part, President Nhamadjo angrily rejected the accusations as "criminal."

The DEA has long



Cocaine cowboy "Chepe Handal"

### Narco Politics in Honduras

The US Treasury on April 10 froze the assets of one of Honduras's most prominent politicians, accusing him of leading a drug-trafficking ring. José Miguel Handal Perez, a.k.a. "Chepe Handal," was cited under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act for allegedly smuggling cocaine from Colombia and Venezuela to Mexico in league with Los Zetas and the Sinaloa Cartel. Handal, who has denied the accusations, is running for the Honduran National Congress in November's elections. The Handal family owns several companies in the industrial city of San Pedro Sula.



Africa bumps up

worked to create the illusion of FARC operations spanning the globe, and the agency has especially been angling for an African connection. In 2009, DEA agents posing as FARC honchos similarly snared two men in Ghana who claimed to be agents of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. Once again, the coke-for-weapons "deal" originated with the DEA, not with AQIM or the FARC.

### Sinaloa Cartel Kingpin Nabbed in Colombia

Colombian National Police on April 17 announced the arrest in Cali of Cesar Demar Vernaza Quiñonez, a.k.a. "El Empresario," the accused boss of the Ecuadoran narco gang Los Templados and the purported top South

American operative of Mexico's Sinaloa Cartel. In February, Vernaza managed to escape from a maximum-security prison in Guayaquil, known as "La Roca" (the Rock), where he was serving a 25-year sentence for homicide. He allegedly went to Cali to establish contact with regional narco bosses and rebuild his operations along Colombia's Pacific coast. Arrested with him was "La Bestia" (the Beast). At first La Bestia attempted to resist arrest—taking the residents in his building hostage and threatening to blow up a gas tank—but the authorities ultimately persuaded him to surrender.

### Still No Sign of "El Chapo"

Mexican authorities on April 30 announced the arrest of Inés Coronel Barrera, the father-in-law of the country's most-wanted fugitive, Sinaloa Cartel kingpin Joaquin Guzman, a.k.a. "El Chapo."



Is "El Chapo" protected?

Coronel, 45, was captured in the border state of Sonora along with four presumed bodyguards by the federal police, who also confiscated weapons, vehicles, and more than 500 pounds of marijuana apparently destined for Arizona.

Ironically, Mexico regularly announces the capture of Guzman's top associates—even as rumors swirl that the government is actually protecting the kingpin himself.

### Michoacán Tipping Into War

At least 15 people were killed on April 10 in a series of confrontations in Mexico's increasingly violent state of Michoacán. The first clash began when federal police in a helicopter spotted armed men

traveling in four vehicles in the town of Gabriel Zamora. The gunmen opened fire on the agents, who shot back and killed five. In the town of Apatzingán, federal agents were accompanying a procession commemorating the anniversary of the death of the famed Mexican revolutionary Emiliano Zapata when gunmen opened fire with AK-47s; the agents returned fire, killing one.

### Cancún: Bloody Paradise

Six people were found strangled to death and another decapitated in the Mexican tourist resort of Cancún on April 14. Police discovered the bodies of five men and two women in a shack on the outskirts of the Yucatan Peninsula city, which has largely escaped the narco violence rocking the Pacific-coast resort city of Acapulco. Quintana Roo state authorities said the victims were all low-level drug dealers.

### Mass Graves in Monterrey

On April 16, a shoot-out in the streets of López Rayón, a pueblo in Tamaulipas state, left three people dead. That same day, two cadavers were found on a riverbank in the Juárez suburb of Monterrey, Nuevo León. An investigation led to the discovery of several mass graves in the area, with the remains of at least five dismembered bodies exhumed so far. ✨

*For updates on these and other stories, see Bill Weinberg's websites, GlobalGanjaReport.com and WorldWar4Report.com.*



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Welcome to Havana.

# The Reggaeton Gangs of Cuba

On an island rich in culture but poor in cash, Cuba's underground musicians live the artists' life by any means necessary, including some low-level dealing on the country's famed nightlife scene. Journalist Craig Stephens reports from the inner circle of the *reggaetoneros*, who create an electrifying mix of reggae, dancehall, soca, hip-hop and electronica.

**On the surface,** Cuba would seem to have it all—pristine eclectic architecture, exotic beaches, wonderful cuisine, potent rum and world-class cigars. It also has Guantánamo Bay, an oppressive political regime, a seemingly endless US-led trade embargo and rampant poverty. Yet Cubans are resourceful folks. They will rent their homes to tourists, buy and sell used clothing and furniture. And despite the hefty penalties for drug dealing, they will also sell marijuana and cocaine—a dangerous pursuit when you consider that, in 1999, Cuba's National Assembly passed legislation imposing the death penalty for serious cases of drug trafficking, to be carried out by firing

squad. Meanwhile, simple possession of illegal drugs can carry a penalty of anywhere from six months to two years in prison.

Havana's reggaeton artists risk a lot to explore their passion, and many resort to gang-oriented drug crime as their bread and butter. While supporting themselves by dealing, Cuba's *reggaetoneros* also market bootleg MP3s to develop their musical careers. Many have gained major airplay in Mexico and South America; some are even Top 10 artists.

Reggaeton, a rhythmic tribal hybrid of reggae, Latin and electronica, has become the voice of subversion in Cuba: News reports on

state-controlled TV have even cited the street-savvy genre's ability to unite like-minded "unruly" elements. "Teachers and family cannot be naive regarding this matter," Cuban state TV warned, while profiling several 6-year-olds offering their own renditions of a tune by Puerto Rican reggaeton megastar Daddy Yankee.

Home to over 11 million people, Cuba is the most densely populated country in the Caribbean, as well as the largest by area. Unlike poorer Central American nations like Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador, Cuba has a 99.8 percent literacy rate, an infant mortality rate lower than many developed countries (including, according to

the CIA's *World Factbook* for 2012, the United States) and an average life expectancy of 77.64 years, according to a 2006 study.

As a result, Cubans are better educated and more politically aware than their Central American brothers. The possibility that they will somehow be mobilized via the anti-establishment themes of reggaeton is what has government officials riled up.

I've spent time in Cuba on a few occasions, and on my most recent trip there, I was befriended by several members of a gang who deal drugs primarily to finance their musical careers. They showed me around the city, let me stay in their homes and

« gave me insight into their lives, from their constant struggles with money and the law, to raising kids and making music—all the while brandishing an unparalleled sense of nationalism.

My Cuban contacts also offered me insights into the weed-growing culture on the island, which seems to exist mainly indoors in well-concealed warehouses and expansive homes. Sophisticated lighting setups ensure that the weed is properly nurtured for optimum growth and strength.

### DIY Music

Twenty-nine-year-old Juan (the name I've given him for this story) is a well-known *reggaetonero* who has written several songs for artists in the booming genre, including Gente De Zona, Baby Loes and Kola Loka. He also performs under several other monikers. Since *reggaetoneros* are regarded as renegades and subversives, Juan says that local industry prejudices exclude them from recording for existing labels or gaining airplay on state-controlled radio. He tells me that Cuban reggaeton artists generally record in homemade studios, complete with an in-house engineer, for as little as \$3 US an hour. From there, the distribution starts via CDs or memory cards, with fans burning preferred tracks.

From there, "things just snowball," he says, with the CDs and memory cards being moved through a variety of channels. "They will sell them at underground gigs that are scattered throughout Havana for a few bucks each; they'll have their cab-driver relatives sell them; they'll sell them at local markets. And it grows big—big by word of mouth amongst the local reggaeton community."

A mechanic by trade, Juan has been toasting since the age of 14. In addition to his musical exploits, Juan also generates a nice income



The party raged until 5:30 a.m.

## So far, Juan has managed to avoid arrest, largely due to the fact that he hands over about \$500 US a week to the cops.

dealing weed and blow—mostly to tourists, as only a small minority of locals can afford to indulge.

So far, Juan has managed to avoid arrest, largely due to the fact that he hands over about \$500 US a week to the cops. He says that's not bad when you consider that he can make anywhere from \$1,500 to \$2,000 a week from drug sales. Regarding his relations with the local police, Juan says: "I pay them but would never flip [inform on them]—otherwise, I'd end up bye-bye fast."

And regarding his impressive paycheck on an island where the average Cuban earns about \$200 a month, Juan explains: "I don't keep the money for me. I have six kids and my older mother to feed, so a lot goes towards them. Everything is everything." The rest, he adds, is spent on producing music and partying.

### A Night to Remember

After several hours and countless mojitos, I met up with Juan at the palatial abode of his Uncle Yayus. It was just shy of 2 a.m., and Juan entered looking resplendent in a gaudy red velvet suit. He had complemented this

stunning ensemble with an open-neck white shirt, three sizeable gold chains and a pair of two-tone shoes, which gave him a look that was part Colonel Sanders, part Mexican used-car salesman. "Voilà!" he announced and spun proudly for an all-angle view.

Juan wasn't high on any of his chosen contraband, just rum and caffeine. "I stay away from *yayo*," he told me. "It is simply a product for me—very bad if I get involved. It's just bananas to me," he reiterated. Those were wise words, especially considering the assortment of \$60 baggies he was carrying.

Dressed to impress, he was looking forward to his performance later that night at an underground club called Compay.

By the time we got there, Compay was pumping big time. Shapely girls were grinding their scantily clad butts on the pimped-out, sweat-suited dudes dancing behind them. Delighted tourists forked over

hundreds to various people hawking blow, weed, cigars and women.

During a chaotic three-hour bacchanal between 2:30 and 5:30 a.m., I met a colorful cast of people, ranging from 15-year-old hookers to 60-year-old Cuban grandfathers, plus endless drug dealers, pimps, thieves, and three losers from Finland boasting about their multiple conquests with the underage working girls.

Anything could be procured from the bar itself, which was manned by a burly guy with an afro straight out of the disco era. Wraps of blow went for \$60 US, while weed fetched \$50 a bag. Strictly for research purposes, I indulged in some of the local dried coca-leaf paste, which was decidedly potent. The local weed was good quality, too—pungent and sticky, with a citric taste. A few tokes and I was floored.

After too much rum and most of the night spent plying his wares, Juan eventually delivered an upbeat rendition of a reggaeton tune called "No Compay" by Eddy K, which he claims to have co-written. Featuring a catchy sampled bass hook played over the nosebleed-level PA, the tune's memorable chorus will stay with me: "Cono Cono, once my *compay*, / Now you know you gonna pay..."

At closing time, the bar's owner, Chopin, was keen to remind me that his countrymen are far removed from the average Latino stereotype.

"We are better educated, more cultured and have a better command of English," Chopin boasted. "We also don't carry guns. We may deal drugs, but they aren't stepped on, and we don't cut innocent people's heads off for doing it." ✨



### Havana Hotspots

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Getting high in the morning.

## Pink and Green

Ariel Pink on lo-fi and getting high.

**Ariel Pink** is one of those peculiar indie musicians—the kind with a jittery way of speaking, the type who has trouble looking folks in the eye. In addition to bearing a passing resemblance to Kurt Cobain (“He’s a kindred spirit,” Pink cracks), this Los Angeles-based outlier shares one burden with the misfit grunge idol: He’s inspired countless knockoff acts.

And today, he’d like to clear the air with an apology of sorts. “The whole parade of these cut-off jeans and, like, the poodle hair and some guy who’s into all these sort of post-punk minimal-wave bands?” he says, evoking but never uttering the dreaded word *hipster*. “That’s partly my fault.”

Pink’s pioneering lo-fi albums—released under the moniker Ariel Pink’s Haunted Graffiti—have intrigued music

critics and fans with their off-kilter banter between synths and melodies. Though his latest, *Mature Themes*, is far less eccentric than his previous records, it’s still a masterwork of weirdness. Not surprisingly, weed plays a powerful role in his songwriting process. “A lot of times, I’ll just start with a title, then have to write lyrics,” Pink says. “With ‘Early Birds of Babylon,’ I sat down and smoked some pot to clear my mind.” Then he adds with a laugh: “I was just trying to be as satanic as possible.”

His unmistakable style is lifted from no one and yet everyone. As a kid, “I started with Bach,” he explains, “and I really loved Morbid Angel, too. I used to listen to a lot of metal.” He gave one of his first live performances at a fifth-grade talent show, where he sang a sincere rendition of

Guns N’ Roses’ “Patience.” “I dressed up as Axl Rose with the bandana, did the snake dance,” he recalls. “I told my parents not to come, ’cause it was so personal to me.” They came anyhow, so he ignored them the whole time.

Though he likes to chew over these less obvious influences, the multi-instrumentalist owes a great debt to R. Stevie Moore, the lo-fi cult legend who’s self-released more than 400 albums since the late ’60s. (No slacker himself, Pink has recorded some 500 songs so far in his career.) “I was over at my friend Brant’s house—he’s this savant-like friend of mine,” Pink says regarding the person who turned him on to Moore. “I used to make pilgrimages out [there] with a box of cassette tapes.”

The lo-fi ethos that Pink has cultivated has been “an aesthetic choice. I started in my garage—the eight-track cassette that I recorded onto just naturally had that sound. In my methods, if you record drums on one of those machines, you’re gonna get a very trashy sound.”

His songs have another thing in common: “They

**“I always used to smoke pot so I could get out of my head for a second.”**

are all weed narratives, in a sense,” he says. “I would always have a pipe next to me. That was my ... I always used to smoke pot so I could get out of my head for a second. ‘Getting High in the Morning,’ ‘Higher and Higher’—they’re all stoner anthems.

“The first time I really got stoned was when I was 15. It was in Palm Springs with an older-mentor guy,” Pink continues. “I used to think he was smoking cigarettes, then realized he was smoking weed. One time, I smoked it and started to feel like my limbs were not attached to me. It was really psychedelic—very mind-blowing. That first year of smoking weed was really an eye-opening experience.”

And so it continues to be. *Mature Themes* is his 13th (give or take) proper album, and by his teasing of pop-music conventions, it’s also a fertile reminder of the sounds he has yet to explore. “Weed has been essential,” Pink concludes. “The whole new-sound thing is all about expanding your mind. I’m a total product of that.” *Nisha Gopalan*



### Stepping Stone

One of Ariel Pink’s first times using weed as a creative force came after he dropped out of college and joined an LA-based ashram. There, he created his unreleased (but prodigiously bootlegged) albums *House Arrest*, *Lover Boy*, *Scared Famous*, and *FF*>>.

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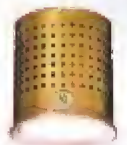


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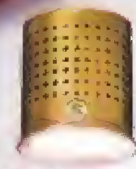
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## Cannabis Compendium

Short stories and stoner glories.

For the fourth installment of the *Akashic Drug Chronicles* series, editor and contributor Jonathan Santlofer presents a highbrow collection of literary stoner gems that range from fiction and poetry

This is not a collection of hushed, reverent accounts or preachy tales of political struggle.



**The Marijuana Chronicles**  
(Akashic Books)

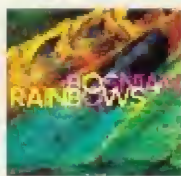
to essays and even graphic art. The series has previously covered cocaine, heroin and speed, so this sometimes mellow, sometimes reefer-mad addition is quite welcome. As former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is quoted as saying in the book's introduction: "That is not a drug, it's a leaf."

This is not a collection of hushed, reverent accounts or preachy tales of political struggle (though examples of both can be found here). Instead, it's a collage of short works by a list of names whose bios are as impressive, in some cases, as the prose and art. Included are never-before-seen works by Joyce Carol Oates, Raymond Mungo, Cheryl Lu-Lien Tan, Maggie Estep, Bob Holman (of Bowery Poetry Club fame) and Emmy Award-winning illustrator Dean Haspiel.

The two nonfiction pieces here are Mungo's delightful memoir of the dispensary heyday in Long Island, CA, and a politically charged piece by Rachel Shteir on the plight of Illinois cannabis activist Julie Falco. Other gems include Oates's moving, multigenerational short story—heart-wrenching and beautiful, it details the immediately relatable experience of suffering a deep loss (as well as getting very, very high for the first time in a long while). Also refreshing is literary agent Philip Spitzer's first foray into fiction with a very nonfiction-feeling piece titled "Tips for the Pot-Smoking Traveler."

This is a book that deserves an eye-level spot on every toker's book shelf—as well as a thoroughly stoned romp from intro to finale. *Mary Ought Six*

## MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



**Bosnian Rainbows**  
*Bosnian Rainbows*  
(Sargent House)

In his first post-Mars Volta project, Omar Rodríguez-López scales back the expansiveness and discovers added melody, particularly from singer Teri Gender Bender. Formerly of Mexican garage-punks Les Butcherettes, Gender Bender has Stevie Nicks's witchy allure filtered through the

moody new wave croon of Romeo Void's Debora Iyall. Her willowy vocals linger like smoke, uniting the wick-edly twisty and swerving prog-rock arrangements; plus there are enough odd, squiggly tones deftly bedazzling the backgrounds for a *Star Wars* droid convention. *Chris Parker*



**Big Eyes**  
*Almost Famous*  
(Grave Mistake)

Tuff, not tough, with vocals more Joan-Jett-licking-lollipop than flicking switchblade, Seattle three-piece Big Eyes deliver fuzzy power-pop punk on their sophomore full-length. It's a solid record—slightly more midtempo than I was hoping for, but worth it for "Half the Time," the biggest,

sweetest jawbreaker in this gumball machine. The Thin Lizzy-esque twin-guitar soloing here and in "Wanted Sometimes" is refreshingly atypical of the genre. Other prizes are the riff of "Losing Touch," the epic bass opener of "The Sun Still Shines" and the stellar chorus in "A Matter of Time." *Polly Watson*



**Portugal. The Man**  
*Evil Friends*  
(Atlantic)

On their seventh album, Portland prog quintet Portugal. The Man reach for the arty grandeur of Pink Floyd and the elegant sweep of early Chicago. The result is a dramatic, richly orchestrated yet surprisingly catchy album. Frontman John Gourley has long given P.T.M.'s keyboards a hip-swiveling

immediacy that balances the indulgence of the arrangements. The band's irrepressible charms extend here from the tasty glam-soul of "Creep in a T-Shirt" to the sardonic effervescence of "Modern Jesus" and the jazzy late-night antiwar paean "Waves." Perfect for art-rock lovers. *Chris Parker*



**Rodion G.A.**  
*The Lost Tapes*  
(Strut)

Heavy censorship plagued the arts in communist Romania back in the late '70s and early '80s, forcing bands to make propaganda music or, even worse, sappy pop sounds that didn't rock the political boat. But teenage Rodion G.A. rocked it anyway, bedroom-producing his DIY ditties using creaky

reel-to-reel recorders, guitars, toy synths, a rinky-dink Soviet-made organ and an East German drum machine, all smeared out with fuzz/flanger pedals and other effects units. Programmed rhythms and overdubbed voice, Rodion sounds like Jethro Tull jamming with Kraftwerk. *John Payne*

## GAMES RECOMMENDATIONS



**Far Cry 3: Blood Dragon**  
*Xbox 360, PS3, PC*  
(Ubisoft)

Synth music, hot pink lasers across a blue grid, VHS references and Michael Biehn as the main character—for everyone with a nostalgia for the neon-drenched 1980s, *Blood Dragon* warrants a keytar riff while you stylishly throw on your aviators. Riding the back of *Far Cry 3*'s technical and

commercial success, this title is a stand-alone downloadable with more character. In the dystopian future of 1997, you play a rogue commando with a robot arm and a Robocop pistol hell-bent on revenge. Best of all, *Blood Dragon* has the over-the-top attitude that many games these days lack. *Tyler Stewart*



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A dip with a kick.

## MUNCHIES

### Freestyle Fondue

Add cannabis, lose the pot.

Chocolate fondue is one of the simplest, quickest and most fun dishes to devour, and yet people rarely make it unless their kitchen is stocked with a fondue pot. But this needn't be the case. (What, did you think we meant doing a recipe without the *other* kind of pot?)

Fondue pots are definitely cool, so if you do have one, you should certainly use it and have yourself a proper pot party with this delicious, cannabis-infused chocolate.

But even if you don't, you can now stop depriving yourself, your roommates and your high-minded cronies!

The basic function of a fondue pot is to keep the cheese—or, in this case, chocolate—at a nice, warm consistency via a candle placed underneath. If you have one, be sure to stir the mixture fairly frequently so that you don't scorch the chocolate or waste the weed's potent properties. But for all those people who lack this nifty appliance, this bud recipe's for you.

My favorite thing about this dish is that it's great all year round. Though it remains a sweet delight for weddings and other romantic days or endeavors, a bowl of chocolate fondue is one of those versatile treats that can add the awesome to a game day, ladies' night in, dinner party or even a deliciously decadent breakfast—especially with the added benefits of weed infusion. *Mary Ought Six*

## HIGH-FLYING FONDUE

1/4 oz. ground marijuana  
2 tbsp. unsalted butter  
8 oz. dark chocolate (chips or chopped)  
1/2 cup heavy cream  
1/2 tsp. instant or ground coffee or espresso  
2 tbsp. cognac (optional)

Start out by making the cannabis butter. If you don't have a favorite method already, an easy way is to put the butter in a double boiler over low heat. Stir in the ground cannabis and continue to stir occasionally—and be diligent about it to ensure that the weed doesn't get toasty. After 35 to 45 minutes, strain the butter through cheesecloth into a dish beside the stove top, extracting as much of the butter as possible from the green pulp.

Next, place the chocolate in a heatproof bowl and set it in a pan of simmering water (a little like the double-boiler method). Add the cannabutter, cream, coffee and liqueur

(if you're using it). Continue stirring until the chocolate is completely melted and has a smooth consistency.

Put the bowl on a hot pad or potholder in the place where you intend to serve it and partake immediately. By stirring the chocolate occasionally, it should stay at a great dipping consistency for around 20 minutes. If it hasn't been completely gobbled up by then, add one to three teaspoons of heavy cream and place it back over the simmering water until smooth again. Good to the last dip.

For dipping, I'd recommend strawberries with stems, banana rounds, pound-cake cubes, potato chips, pineapple chunks, doughnut holes or whatever else your munchies might scream for! (Don't forget plenty of forks or skewers.)

*Stones 6 to 8.*

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420



Lady Liberty



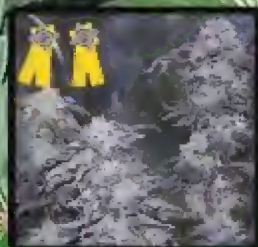
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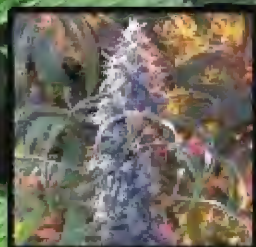
Blackberry



Gold



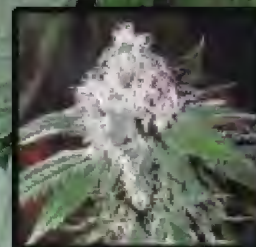
Fucking Incredible



Mother



British Columbian



Kat

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## Medical Strain of the Month

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### Northern Lights #5 x Haze

When I left home for my first year of college, I planned ahead and, like many high-minded budding young scholars, brought a fairly sizable bag of weed with me. Like all the pot I'd ever smoked in my life, the ganja I brought to college came complete with tons and tons of seeds—enough that, given their incredible nutritional value, I should have been snacking on them morning, noon and night. Instead, I scattered them a handful at a time in the cemetery next to my dorm for the little birds to eat.

As for the quality, nowadays I'd call it (not without some fondness) "schwag"—basically dirt-brown, wispy outdoor *sativa*, grown in a big field with male plants letting their pollen fly, probably somewhere down Mexico way, but who knew for sure? Certainly not the guy I got it from. And neither of us would have ever called it "schwag," because we had absolutely nothing else to compare it to.

About a week into that fateful first semester, however, I made a new friend who'd also done the sensible thing and brought a big bag of weed to school. Only his weed had

a name: Northern Lights #5 x Haze. Imagine my surprise and delight to discover that not only did two such wonderful strains of cannabis exist on planet Earth, but that someone had gotten them to mate and produce offspring.

In addition to getting incredibly blazed, I learned a lot about cannabis that day, like the difference between *sativas* and *indicas*, and the many benefits of breeding an elite example of the former (Haze) to an exemplary version of the latter (Northern Lights #5). Those fat, light green NL #5 x Haze buds smelled like a pine forest and produced a smooth, almost sweet smoke that pretty much blew my mind. I would definitely never look at (or smell) pot the same way again.

Seeds for this legendary strain remain available from Sensi Seed Bank ([sensiseeds.com](http://sensiseeds.com)) more than 20 years after my first time puffing it. Anyone suffering from chronic pain and especially arthritis would be well advised to seek out this throwback variety, which flowers in 10 to 11 weeks. You'll be tossing a Frisbee around on the quad in no time! ✨

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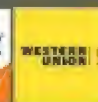
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California	San Francisco Oroville	Platinum Girl Scout Cookies Strawberry Kush Chocolope Girl Scout Cookies	240 250 285 300
Colorado	Boulder Denver	Kosher Kush Trainwreck Diesel Tahoe OG	320 260 260
Delaware	Pike Creek	Afghan Haze Cheese Quake x Kush	350 370
Florida	Orlando	Blue Dream	420
Hawaii	Kauai	Banana Kush	400
Indiana	Indianapolis	Super Silver Haze	360
Kansas	Wichita	Sweet Tooth	380
Maryland	Baltimore	Critical +	420
Massachusetts	Boston	East Coast Sour Diesel	400
Michigan	Bay City	Kosher Kush Deathstar	275 300
Minnesota	Minneapolis	Jack Herer	360
Missouri	St. Louis St. Robert	Durban Poison OG Kush Girl Scout Cookies Tahoe OG	325 400 400 375
New Jersey	Hoboken	Guava Chem	420
New York	New York	Ghost Train Haze Sour Diesel	400 400
North Carolina	Charlotte Outer Banks	Cannalope Kush Purple Wreck Purple Urkel	440 400 350
Ohio	Akron Paulding	Cheese Querkle	300 300
Oklahoma	Muskogee	Purps	400
Oregon	Yamhill Valley	Jack Herer Afghan Kush	150 135
Pennsylvania	Easton	Blue Dream	480
Tennessee	Nashville	White Widow	460
Texas	Austin	Blue Dream Sour Diesel	220 220
Virginia	Richmond	OG Kush	300
Washington	Seattle	Blue Dream Cheese	200 220

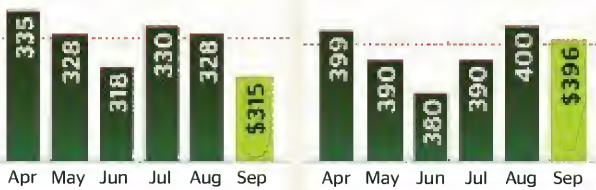
MARKET ANALYSIS

Prices by the ounce

All indices, with the exception of the Schwag Index, finished September below their previous month's average. The US Price Index experienced the biggest drop (-\$13), closing the month at its lowest average price per ounce since January. Meanwhile, the Schwag Index finished September \$13 above its previous month's average and \$6 above its year-to-date.

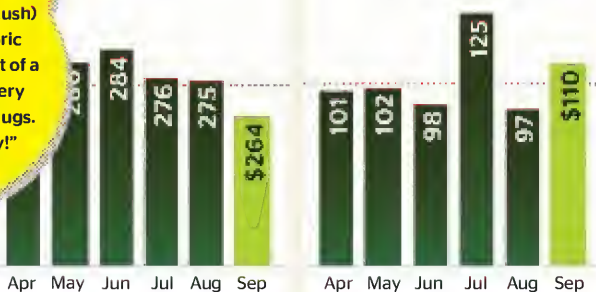
**US Price Index**  
 YTD Average: \$327

**Kind Index**  
 YTD Average: \$395



**Mids Index**  
 YTD Average: \$274

**Schwag Index**  
 YTD Average: \$104



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INTERNATIONAL

Australia	Brisbane	Pineapple Kush	AU\$320
Canada	Toronto	Jack Herer	C\$180
South Africa	Johannesburg	Lemon Skunk	R 200

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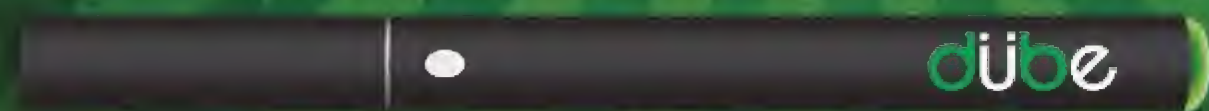
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 Outer Banks, NC

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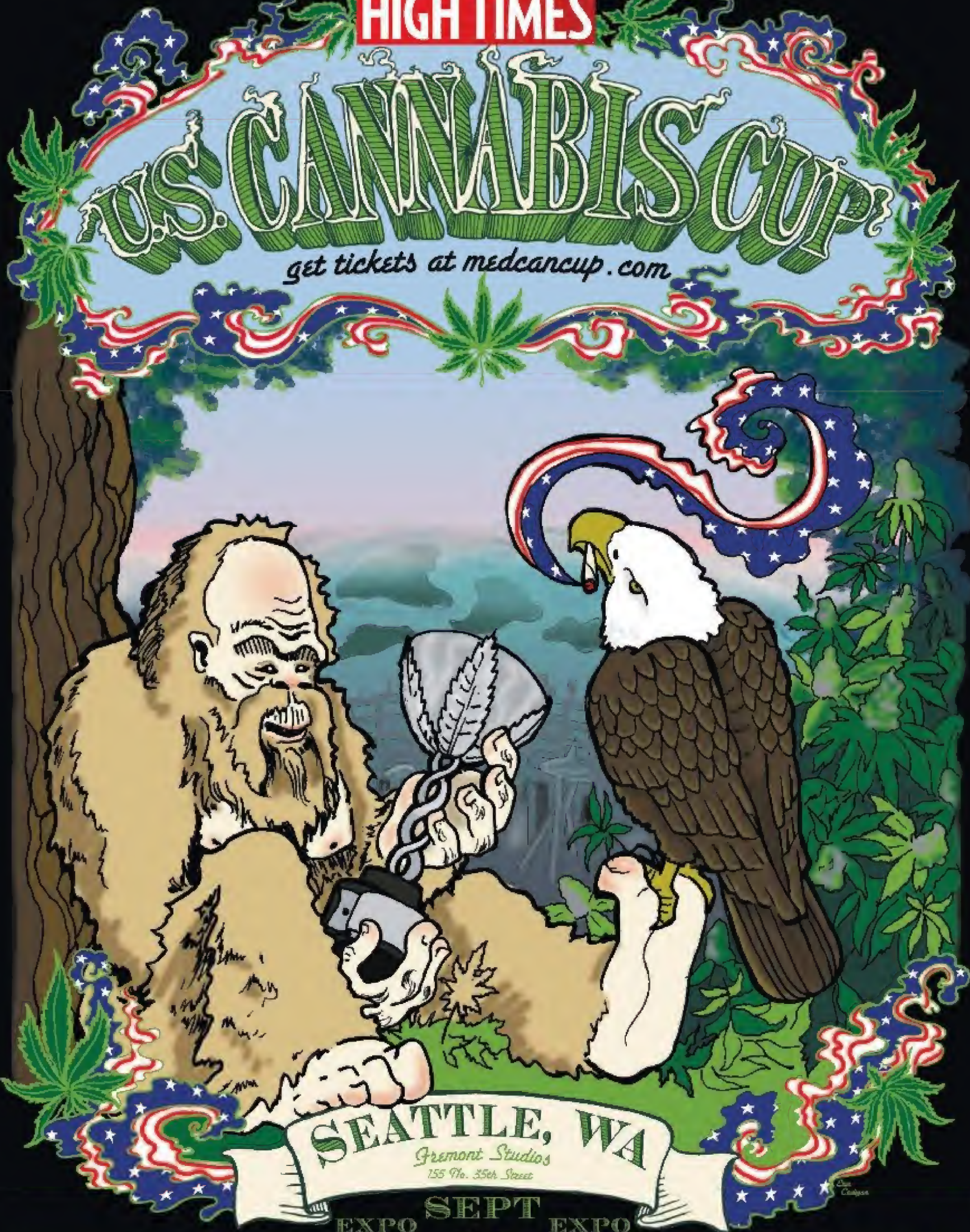
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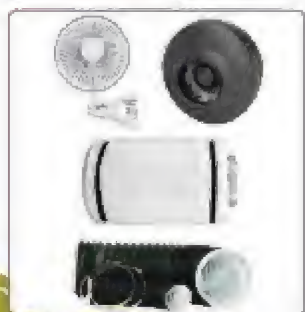
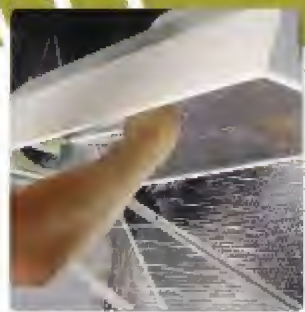
## 2013 HIGH TIMES STASH AWARD



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# 2013 S.T.A.S.H. AWARDS

## OUR PICKS FOR GEAR OF THE YEAR.

The *High Times* Cultivation Department has traveled near and far, examining growrooms and hydroponic trade shows in a search for the best marijuana-producing equipment in the world. We've compiled those findings here in our 15th annual rundown of the greatest in pot-growing gear.



### New LED Lights

The HiLED from Solis Tek

The top three issues plaguing those attempting to use LED lights for horticulture have always been intensity, spectrum and longevity. But now the Solis Tek HiLED offers growers the world's first serviceable diode-based lighting system (using a 5K-rated, full-spectrum 100-watt diode chip) that eliminates all three of these problems. All HiLED Sunchips are interchangeable and replaceable, so you can fine-tune the spectrum for your preferred output. And unlike other LED lighting systems, HiLEDs use an advanced UV diode/phosphor combination to offer the kind of spectrums associated with HID lights.

In other words, no more weird-colored LED grow lights stressing your plants' genetics or your eyes. The HiLED comes in two models: the Solis 5 (with a 500-watt total power draw) and the Solis 9 (with a 990-watt total power draw).

Solis 5, \$1599.00; Solis 9, \$2599.00

[solis-tek.com](http://solis-tek.com)



**THE  
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### Growbox Package

Bloombox Royale from BC Northern Lights

The Bloombox Royale from BC Northern Lights is a complete grow solution that comes with everything you need for six potent harvests per year. The smart dual-chamber setup lets you produce your own clones and reap a harvest every two months. And don't let the compact size fool you: This growbox can produce 9 to 18 ounces of high-quality bud per harvest.

Included are an odor-free dryer unit, CO<sub>2</sub> injection, additional grow lights, a ton of backup parts, custom nutrients, BC Northern Lights' harvest-boosting T5 lighting rig and hydro-testing gear, making this system the best bang for your buck in an indoor growbox.

\$4,300

[bcnorthernlights.com](http://bcnorthernlights.com)



**THE  
BEST  
2013**

### LED Growbox

Super LED Deluxe 3.0 from SuperCloset

LED lighting should be at the forefront of indoor grow technology, but there are plenty of faulty systems out there that have left growers frustrated and wary. The Super LED Deluxe 3.0 growbox from SuperCloset employs the newly launched Kind LED Grow Lights, which use 3-watt diodes that produce plenty of light while reducing electrical usage and heat.

Simply put, this unit runs quieter and cooler than other growboxes. Fewer fans and less complex circuitry keep these boxes stealthy and safe, and their SuperPonics and SuperCloner hydro systems ensure that plants are well fed and their roots receive plenty of dissolved oxygen. These boxes come fully assembled, are totally automated, and lock tightly for security and discretion (dimensions: 36" x 24" x 72").

\$2,695

[supercloset.com](http://supercloset.com)



**THE  
BEST  
2013**

### Aeroponic Technology

Rainforest 66 from General Hydroponics

Aeroponics—in which the plants' roots are suspended in a fine mist of aerated nutrient solution—takes hydro growing to the next level, and the Rainforest 66 is the finest compact aero unit on the market. From seedlings or clones all the way to harvest, these versatile 15" x 15" x 15" workhorses provide the ultimate in oxygenation for six medium to large plants in a small space.

The secret to the Rainforest's success is the Vortex Sprayer, which ensures that super-oxygenated nutrient solution constantly fogs and soaks the roots, allowing for optimal food and oxygen uptake. Interchangeable lids can be purchased to grow more small plants or fewer large ones, and each individual module can be attached to a larger controller for bigger grow spaces.

\$236.99

[hydrowholesale.com](http://hydrowholesale.com)



**Hydroponic Buckets**

**THE BEST 2013**

The Under Current Recirculating Water Culture System from Current Culture H2O Hydroponic growers have been buzzing about these versatile and futuristic deep-water culture (DWC) buckets. Using state-of-the-art peripheral negative pressure, they produce and recirculate nutrient solution with a very high rate of dissolved oxygen, resulting in absolutely explosive root and plant growth. (And in another smart touch, the pump is located outside of the reservoir to reduce water temperature.) They're made with care in California using commercial-grade materials, with parts that will last through many harvests, and the many different options allow you to customize these units to fit almost any size room or application.

Prices vary  
cch2o.com

**New Soil Growbox**

**THE BEST 2013**

EarthCab Pro XL from Cabinet Grow  
Not every cannabis cultivator looking to buy a growbox is interested in complicated hydroponic setups and all the

headaches that come with soilless growing. Most organic farmers prefer using a soil mix as their medium, and that's why we love the EarthCab Pro XL from Cabinet Grow.

Recently upgraded, these workhorse units are built to last. They come complete with FoxFarm Ocean Forest organic supersoil and all of the nutrients, pumps, timers, fans and filters that you'll need to grow a heavy harvest in no time at all. EarthCabs are light-tight and airtight for the utmost in odor control, and they're whisper-quiet when running. Plus the EZ Roll Casters make moving the unit a breeze, and it locks up completely for stealthy growing every time.

\$2,495 plus shipping  
cabinetgrow.com



**New Grow Tent**

**THE BEST 2013**

The 2' x 4' SuperRoom by SuperCloset  
SuperCloset's all-in-one indoor growroom is a turnkey tent package that

comes complete with a fully automated hydroponic grow system as well as all of the necessary equipment to get up and growing immediately and securely!

The stealthy 2' x 4' setup comes complete with a Gorilla Grow Tent (which includes a 2-foot height extender), one 400-watt air-cooled HPS bulb with a Lumatek dimmable digital ballast, and Sunlight Supply's New Blazer 6" AC reflector hood. It also includes all of the timers needed for complete automation; an odor-free, activated-carbon scrubber and air filter; a digital readout temperature/hygrometer; and internal circulation fans for atmospheric control.

The package also features a pH-testing kit and TDS meter, a complete TechnaFlora nutrient program, and an instructional DVD with setup instructions and grow tips.

\$1,395  
supercloset.com



**THE  
BEST  
2013**

### New HID Lighting

Genesis HPS/MH Bulbs from Monster Gardens

Indoor marijuana growers know that proper lighting is a crucial factor for their gardens' success: choosing the right bulb can spell the difference between a heavy harvest or a whole bunch of nothing. The Genesis line of bulbs is specially designed to deliver more light energy to exactly where it's needed most. The 1,000-watt HPS provides 155,000 lumens, the 1,000-watt MH provides 120,000, and both can be used with digital or magnetic ballasts. Plus the one-year warranty guarantees that you'll get the most out of every bulb.

\$49.95

[monstergardens.com](http://monstergardens.com)



**THE  
BEST  
2013**

### New Digital Lamp (Bulb & Ballast Combo)

E-Papillon from Dutch Garden Supplies

In recent years, the search for truly digital bulbs that are compatible with today's newer electronic and digital ballasts has intensified.

The E-Papillon is a 1,000-watt lighting system that comes as an all-in-one fixture. It includes a digital ballast housed within the unit, along with a patented double-ended digital bulb covered by a highly specialized reflector that yields a more than 95% return from the bulb's output. The reflector is simple to remove from the fitting, with the exterior temperatures reaching a maximum of 70°F, so the fitting is safe to touch and the risk of fire is minimal.

\$599

[dutchgardensupplies.com](http://dutchgardensupplies.com)



**THE  
BEST  
2013**

### New Ballast

The Solis Tek Digital Ballast

The new Solis Tek Digital Ballast is not only dimmable to 400-, 600- and 1,000-watt intensities, but it's also compatible with both 120- and 240-volt currencies. The ballast also accepts both metal halide (MH) and high-pressure sodium (HPS) bulbs and offers "ignition control," a sequential lamp-igniting feature that incorporates SenseSmart Pre-Ignition Check technology. This technology helps mitigate the inherent incompatibility of standard HID bulbs with today's electronic and digital ballasts (which run at a higher frequency than the more traditional core-and-coil ballasts).

The Solis Tek "Matrix" model comes complete with LCD screen, remote control, and a built-in digital timer that includes both vegetative and flowering schedules. The ballasts are also available in 400-watt and dual 400-watt/600-watt models.

\$189.99 to \$399.99 (depending on model and features)

[solis-tek.com](http://solis-tek.com)

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### Light-Moving Technology

The Solar Revolution from West Coast Growers

As the name indicates, light movers distribute light energy over larger areas, making each bulb's output more effective as well as reducing issues with hot spots or shading. The Solar Revolution from West Coast Growers performs admirably, without the typical issues some units have with moving parts. The heavy-duty drive motor and German bearings ensure that it's powerful yet quiet, with steel arms capable of holding the heaviest of light reflectors.

The Solar Revolution lets you lower the lights closer to plant tops for better canopy penetration. This also shortens internodal lengths, resulting in thicker stalks and stronger plants. You can even adjust the mover's rotation distance to suit your particular setup.

SRV-2, \$527.95; SRV-3, \$548.95; SRV-4, \$568.95  
westcoastgrowers.com



**THE  
BEST  
2013**

### Vertical Growing Technology

Vertical 360 from Eclipse Gro

Growing plants vertically takes maximum advantage of every bit of available light and space and can multiply yields considerably. The new Vertical 360 from Eclipse Gro accommodates up to 90 plants and comes with an aeroponic sprayer for feeding their roots. A 1,000-gph submersible pump in the 20-gallon reservoir keeps the nutrient solution circulating, while the two 600-watt Dual Cool Tubes powered by dimmable ballasts keep every plant basking in the glow.

The whole thing fits in a 5' x 5' space yet provides plenty of pot with every harvest. All of the necessary pumps and timers are included, but you'll still have to purchase high-intensity discharge (HID) bulbs for the Cool Tubes.

\$2,995  
eclipsegro.com



**THE  
BEST  
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### New Trimming Technology

OG Worker Bee Trimming Station from Harvestime Technologies

Keeping trimmers happy is essential to a successful harvest, and even more so when the trimmer is you. The OG Worker Bee Trim-

ming Station takes the prize for combining comfort with ergonomic ease, while also collecting dry sifted hash in a tray under the stainless steel pollen screen.

Designed to hold up over long periods of use, the OG Worker Bee offers knee wedges, elbow pads, a tray strap, and even a trim bib to keep leaves and residues off of clothing. So forget all those concerns over aching backs or cramping hands, because these trays are a delight to use.

Starter Package \$299; Ultimate Package \$349  
ogworkerbee.com



# Digital Vacuum Degassing Ovens



Across International VO series ovens ARE YOUR BEST CHOICE for curing and converting botanical extracts. Their deep vacuum levels -down to 80 micron- and precise digital temperature controllers allow evaporation / degassing to occur as rapidly as possible with minimum degradation. This ensures your product will be of the utmost quality.

**VO - 16050v 1.9 Cu Ft 16x14x14"**  
**Ambient to 500°F Vacuum Oven**  
**with High Speed Pump and Mist Filter**  
**at \$3,390**



**Picture of botanical extract**  
**provided by our client**  
**Trichome Technologies**



**VO - 16020 0.9 Cu Ft 12x12x11"**  
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**Vacuum Oven**  
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**FO - 19053 1.9 Cu Ft**  
**17x15x14" Ambient to**  
**400°F Forced Air Oven**  
**at \$1,299**



**VO - 16050p 1.9 Cu Ft 16x14x14"**  
**Ambient to 500°F Vacuum Oven**  
**with Compact Pump and Mist Filter**  
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Across International FO series forced air ovens are excellent for rapid decarboxylation. They will rapidly convert THCA's into  $\Delta^9$ -THC. With their gentle airflow and microprocessor based temperature controls, any model can accommodate rapid air drying of your products.

**You can find more information at**  
**[http://www.AcrossInternational.com/Drying-Ovens\\_c15.htm](http://www.AcrossInternational.com/Drying-Ovens_c15.htm)**





**THE BEST 2013**

**Butane Hash Oil Production Tool**

Tamisiium Butane Oil Chemical Extractor TE3000

If you're going to make butane hash oil (or BHO), you've got to do it right, since amateur extraction methods can easily result in tragedy for the producer or potential consumer. The TE300 unit from Tamisiium Extractors will hold up to a kilo of starting material and uses a closed-loop system to collect your concentrates. This low-pressure, low-temperature extraction procedure successfully captures the true essential oils within cannabis, some of which are volatile and can be lost through other processes.

For use by expert chemists only, this pricey piece of laboratory-grade stainless steel equipment extracts and purges the essential oils from over 2 pounds of leaf, trim or (preferably) buds in four to eight hours. Always remember to safely purge the unit when necessary. Smaller, cheaper units are also available.

\$24,495

[tamisiiumextractors.com](http://tamisiiumextractors.com)



**THE BEST 2013**

**Butane Hash Oil Drying Oven**

Across International VO Series Ovens

A proper concentrated hash product isn't complete until the solvent used to strip the essential oils from the plant material is purged from the final product. This is best accomplished using vacuum technology and low heat, and the VO Series Ovens provide the perfect blend of both. True extract artists

know that precision is important, and these ovens achieve both accuracy and consistency.

A dual-layer observation window allows you to see everything that's going on inside these thermally insulated units, and they're easy to clean as well. Plus all VO Series ovens are leak-tested for 24 hours prior to shipping.

Prices vary (the unit pictured is #VO-16020v, the 0.9-cubic-foot oven with high-speed vacuum pump, \$2,790)

[acrossinternational.com](http://acrossinternational.com)

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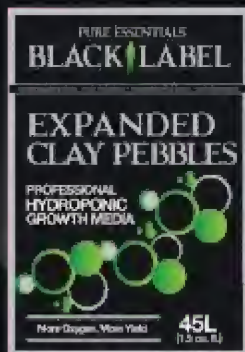
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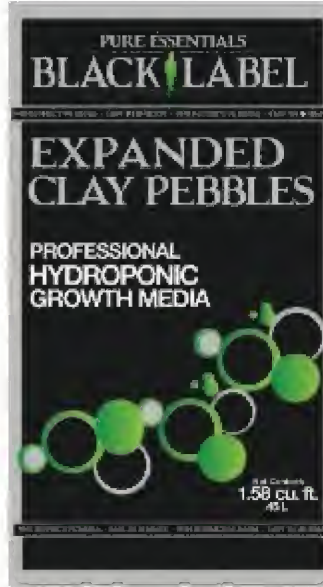
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**New Grow Medium**

Pure Essentials' Black Label Pro-Mix Line

The Black Label line of grow mediums are made from renewable resources. The Black Label Essential Mix (70% coco coir and 30% perlite) is ideal for fast-growing plants: The coco undergoes a rigorous process of cleansing to ensure that all impurities are washed out before being buffered with cal-mag twice; meanwhile, the perlite provides excellent drainage while trapping air and water on its irregular surface. The Perfect Blend offers growers a somewhat different ratio (50% coco coir and 50% perlite).

The Black Label Expanded Clay Pebbles, meanwhile, are manufactured from pure high-quality clay and baked in an open furnace using only extra-clean fuels. The porous structure has a high water-retention capacity and is suitable for both ebb-and-flow and top-feed irrigation systems. Plus these pebbles are all-natural, extremely pH-stable and double-washed before bagging. They're also reusable—just clean them thoroughly with a sterilizing agent.

*Perfect Blend (1.5 cubic feet), \$34.95; Essential Mix (1.5 cubic feet), \$32.95; Expanded Clay Pebbles (45 liters), \$31 growblacklabel.com*



**Spider Mite Control**

Rasta Bob's Death Mite from Discount Hydroponics

We're always looking for safe, non-toxic ways to combat pest problems in the growroom. Rasta Bob's Death

Mite is a plant-based spray that really works, especially against the dreaded spider mite. Three applications over seven days are all it takes to disrupt the mite's short life cycle and stop an infestation in its tracks. Organic growers can avoid using harmful chemicals on their buds by spraying Rasta Bob's at the first sign of mite damage. Beat back these invaders on your own terms, laying siege to adults, juveniles and even their eggs. Best of all, Rasta Bob's Death Mite is crafted from 100 percent pure rosemary extracts and is listed as GRAS (Generally Recognized as Safe) under FDA regulations.

*4 oz, \$9.95; 8 oz, \$17.95; 16 oz, \$31.95; 32 oz, \$49.95 discount-hydro.com*

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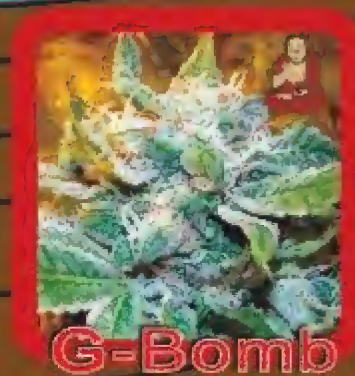
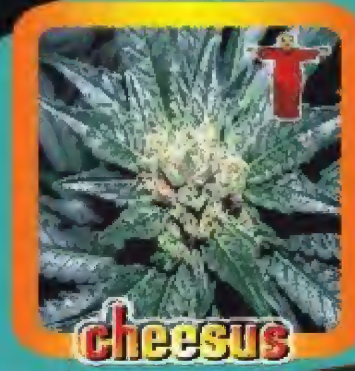
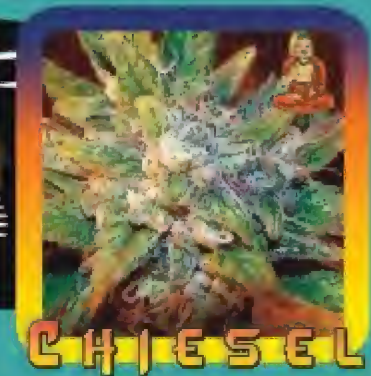
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# Meet the Parents

More and more families have come forward to tell the world that cannabis is helping their children battle chronic or terminal disease. *By Elise McDonough*

**S**even-year-old Mykayla Comstock had been sick for several weeks, with symptoms that included rash, fatigue, night sweats and a hacking cough. Her mother, Erin Purchase, worried that it might be Lyme disease. Instead, in late July 2012, doctors discovered a mass in the little girl's chest and soon diagnosed leukemia.

"Our entire life changed overnight," recalls Brandon Krenzler, Erin's fiancé. The couple had previously enjoyed a peaceful hippie existence, making ends meet by cultivating cannabis, working odd jobs and traveling to festivals to sell their homemade hemp jewelry. They especially cherished the free time that their lifestyle allowed them to spend with Mykayla and her toddler sister, Ryleigh. Now they would focus on only one thing: saving Mykayla's life.

Erin, a soft-spoken, petite brunette, was already using cannabis under the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) to treat her own liver disease (currently in remission); it was a battle that inspired her to learn all she could about the medicine. Meanwhile, as a small-time grower and pot activist, Brandon also knew the science behind medical marijuana. While trying to help a friend with lung cancer, the couple had even researched the potential of cannabis as a cancer treatment. That's when they stumbled upon the story of Cash Hyde, a 2-year-old in Montana who miraculously recovered from an advanced brain tumor after his father clandestinely poured extremely concentrated cannabis oil—Rick Simpson's "phoenix tears," otherwise known as RSO or "hemp oil"—into his feeding tube.

"I fell in love with this little Cashy Hyde," Erin says, "never thinking that my

own little girl was gonna have cancer just a couple months later."

Immediately after Mykayla's devastating diagnosis, the family left their home in Pendleton to be near the children's hospital in Portland where she would undergo a rigorous course of treatment, including intensive chemotherapy. Living in an RV parked outside of a friend's house, they endured fear and stress along with financial troubles.

"The doctors started talking to us about potentially doing a bone-marrow transplant, because the chemotherapy wasn't taking care of the leukemia," Erin explains. "That's when we went and got her RSO oil." Seven days later, Mykayla was in remission, with the level of leukemia-cell saturation in her bone marrow dropping from 30 percent to zero. Today, Mykayla is still undergoing maintenance chemotherapy treatments, and she won't be considered officially "cured" until she is cancer-free for five years.

When I arrive at the suburban home that the family now shares with friends, Mykayla is busy coloring, one of her favorite activities. I watch as she covers a page in pink and purple, intensely focused on filling in the patterns of a complex mandala. Her skin is pale and her head is bare, but otherwise, she seems just like any other bright young girl with a dazzling smile—one who loves wearing pink tutus, playing games with her baby sister and decorating with stickers. Mykayla enjoyed being in school and had a lot of friends, but since the illness has suppressed her immune system, it's necessary for her to lead a very sheltered life. She's looking forward to an upcoming Make-a-Wish trip to Hawaii, because she wants to "swim with the dolphins in Oahu and go to the Dole pineapple maze."





When I ask Mykayla what she wants to be when she grows up, she replies, “I wanna be a doctor so I can help other people.” Going to the hospital for treatments no longer terrifies her, but this brave little lady admits to still getting nervous sometimes. She’ll have to endure more tests, treatments and examinations for another two years at the least.

“I know that cannabis causes apoptosis [a form of programmed cell death] in leukemia cells, and I truly believe that the oil helped her go into remission,” Erin says. “Without cannabis, I think Mykayla would be very sick and would have to use a lot more pharmaceutical medications.”

While, under the circumstances, many families would be tempted to keep this good news to themselves to avoid official condemnation and even potential legal repercussions, Mykayla’s parents have made the difficult decision to go public, joining a growing number of courageous pioneers sharing similar stories and demanding full pediatric access to medical marijuana to treat conditions in their children as diverse as cancer, epilepsy and autism. At a recent fundraiser for the family’s health-care costs hosted by activists and allies at Portland’s World Famous Cannabis Cafe, Erin told me that she wanted their example to give other parents the strength to do the same.

“Basically, my biggest reason to go public is to inform people that medical marijuana is an option, since doctors don’t tell parents about it at all,” she says. “More people should talk about the benefits of cannabis, because it can help a lot of children.”

Starting in 2009, several high-profile cases received mainstream media attention that helped spread the word, including that of California resident Meiko Hester-Perez and her son Joey, who uses edible cannabis brownies as a treatment for autism. During an appearance on *Good Morning America*, Meiko credited the herb with saving her child’s life: “My son had self-injurious behaviors. He was extremely aggressive, he would run out of our house ... he was a danger to himself and others.” The marijuana allowed Joey to calm down, develop an appetite and gain weight.

Lack of success with traditional autism treatment soon led other parents to follow suit, as writer and mother Marie Myung-Ok Lee chronicled in a series of essays on *Slate*. “Pot has allowed us to bypass the powerful psychotropic drugs that are often used to dull such aggressive

outbursts but have a host of serious potential side effects—including permanent tics, diabetes, and death—and did nothing to address J’s pain,” she wrote. Living in Rhode Island, the Lees have been treating their son with legal medical cannabis for several years, and Marie is happy to report that J was able to stop eating his own clothing and even learn to ride a bicycle.

In California, Jason David treats his son Jayden’s Dravet syndrome—a rare and extreme form of epilepsy—with cannabis tinctures specially prepared for him by Harborside Health Center. My Fox 8 reported that after a year of being treated with tinctures high in the medicinal cannabinoid cannabidiol (CBD), Jayden is “beginning to live the life of a normal child. He is able to play, run, climb and eat solid food. Before he started taking legal medical marijuana, he had to swallow 22 pills a day to treat his epilepsy. Now he’s down to just a pill and a half.”

Sadly, the case that garnered the most national media attention—and inspired the most parents—was also the most tragic. Cash Hyde, the Montana toddler who began to battle Stage IV brain cancer just 20 months after his birth, finally succumbed to the disease last November

**More and more families realize that their heart-breaking struggles with cancer, epilepsy, autism and a range of other diseases can potentially be helped by safe access to cannabis.**

after four years of fighting and two full remissions. His father, Mike Hyde, secretly administered RSO to Cash while he was in the hospital—after he’d already been declared terminal by his doctors. Miraculously, Cash was pulled back from the brink of death to live for several more years. After the tumor returned for a third time, however, Mike and his wife Kalli decided to honor Cashy’s request of “no more pokes” and spare him the horrors of chemotherapy yet again.

Even in medical marijuana states, parents risk interference from Child Protective Services for pursuing safe access. Parents considering treating themselves or their children with medical cannabis are advised to seek out a competent attorney and have notarized temporary-guardianship papers drawn up so that, in the case of a visit from CPS, their children will

be placed in the home of a friend or family member instead of a potentially unsafe foster-care situation. Moms for Marijuana, an activist group dealing with issues faced by medical marijuana patients caught in custody battles or CPS disputes over their cannabis use, offers a supportive network for concerned parents. And Kris Hermes from Americans for Safe Access says: “Parents of sick children should consult a physician when considering a course of cannabis treatment, as it is not for everyone. There is evidence that children with cancer, seizures and other health conditions can benefit from medical marijuana, but that should ultimately be a decision between physicians and their patients.” But all of these people agree that the use of a healing herb—especially in states where it is legal—should never result in a parent being separated from their child by the government.

“When it comes to children, it’s going to be very hard for people to accept cannabis as any kind of treatment after all the years of prohibitionist propaganda,” Brandon Krenzler says. “Hell, I love cannabis and I have used it for years—and still, when I gave Mykayla that first dose, I was a little bit worried about it.”

The controversy over the treatment—as

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well as the unwillingness of doctors to risk their careers by recommending it—remains a serious impediment to relieving suffering. No official research into cannabis as a pediatric cancer treatment has been undertaken, since it's classified as a Schedule 1 narcotic with no medicinal value. It's a situation that's beyond frustrating for Mykayla's mom, who remarks: "If cannabis was fully legal, then Mykayla's doctors—along with the cancer research groups—could begin using cannabis in their research."

Without the official blessing of the cancer-industrial complex, such research is being carried out privately in hundreds of homes. Within the close-knit cannabis community of Portland, Mykayla and her family were fortunately able to find help fast, as other activists supported them in their time of need. Jenifer Valley and Mike Mullins of Stoney Girl Gardens provided the RSO oil pro bono, enabling Mykayla to start a rigorous course of treatment within seven days of her diagnosis. "Start fast," Brandon says. "Don't wait until the end and use it as a last resort."

There are many methods for making concentrated cannabis oil, some of which use naphtha or other toxic solvents, but the team at Stoney Girl Gardens uses

***"The doctors started talking about doing a bone-marrow transplant, because the chemotherapy wasn't taking care of the leukemia. That's when we went and got Mykayla the RSO oil."***

food-grade alcohol, usually 190-proof Everclear or Crystal Springs. "We also use only our exclusive strains, organically grown, because the genetics you use matter," Jenifer explains. "Once the alcohol is cooked out, we put it in jars to store and oral syringes for dispensing measured doses."

In addition to the RSO oil, Mykayla uses pot-infused edibles donated by Aligra and Alex at Collective Awakenings,

including recipes specifically tailored to suit a child's body weight and tolerance. Mykayla's favorites are the bite-size cake pops and high-CBD suckers. "Fifty percent of our patients are over 55 years old, but we do have other pediatric patients," Aligra explains, "including children with Tourette's, IBS and mood disorders."

The good news is that this knowledge is spreading fast, as more and more families realize that their heartbreaking struggles with cancer, epilepsy, autism and a range of other diseases can potentially be helped by safe access to cannabis. Children are regularly being prescribed mind-bending amphetamines like Ritalin and dangerous pain-relief drugs like OxyContin. It's really only prohibitionist propaganda that's keeping children in need from gaining access to medical marijuana.

"You never know when your grandma, mother, father, sister, brother or your very own child is going to be diagnosed with cancer. I never in a million years thought that this would happen to my daughter," Erin says. "It makes me frustrated that so many children are suffering unnecessarily when there's this plant that doesn't even harm their little bodies, and it *works*." \*✻



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# Bigger Plants, Better Yields

How container size and trellising can have a big impact on your harvest.

*Story & Photos by Nico Escondido*

Achieving big yields indoors isn't always easy, but relying on good horticultural techniques can make a huge difference.



**M**any growers associate immense yields only with commercial or industrial-sized grow operations. While it's true that larger spaces afford more opportunities for heavier yields, it's also true that techniques deployed in large-scale grows can be incorporated into home gardens.

While the primary focus for those interested in larger yields is on growing larger plants, growers should not

sacrifice quality for quantity. This means that growing larger plants isn't the *only* objective; we also want happy and healthy plants. Plants that are stressed will not achieve their full potential in terms of both quality and yield. By using some simple and effective horticultural techniques—such as larger plant containers, a smart pruning program and trellising—growers can achieve a heavy harvest with quality flowers.





Large containers and stake-tie trellising are the first steps in creating larger yields.

### Plant Containers

To begin, young plants should be transplanted into large containers during their vegetative stage. Depending on the space available, growers will usually opt for containers that are no less than 20 gallons when growing for heavy yields (some indoor and greenhouse growers may even go for 50- or 100-gallon containers). It is important to remember that the size of the plant's root structure ultimately dictates the size of the plant. Therefore, using larger plant containers is the first step in obtaining larger plants.

The *type* of container—not just the size—can play a key role in determining both yield and how happy your plants are. The newer fabric pots offer some of the best features for plant containers: They are not only durable and easily drained, but they ensure maximum breathability for the root zone, allowing air—most importantly, oxygen—to permeate the grow medium and reach the roots for uptake. Keep in mind that roots take in oxygen ( $O_2$ ), while the rest of the plant breathes carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ).

Many people new to growing in the great outdoors imagine that they have unlimited “container” space, as they envision the earth as one giant pot to plant in. However, even outdoor gardens require specialized

plant sites—and this doesn't just mean containers, but also a properly prepared grow medium. Often, regular earth soil is not of a high enough quality to grow healthy pot plants, and most topsoil will require some amending. In fact, many outdoor growers either use gigantic plant containers such as grow bags (in the volume of hundreds of gallons) or construct their own frames for growboxes. In both cases, the plant's roots are free to extend down into the earth, but most of the time they remain in the containers, where they can find the rich medium (usually compost and peat-based soilless mixtures) and nutrients they need to thrive.

**The type of container—not just the size—can play a key role in determining both yield and how happy your plants are.**



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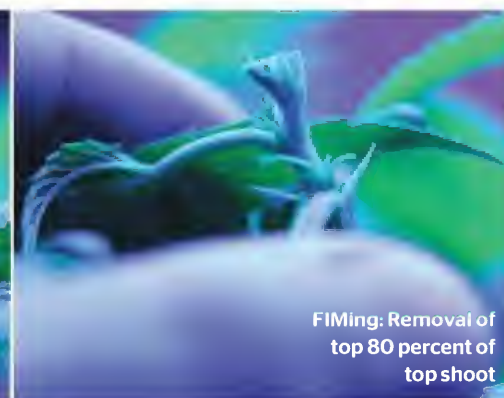
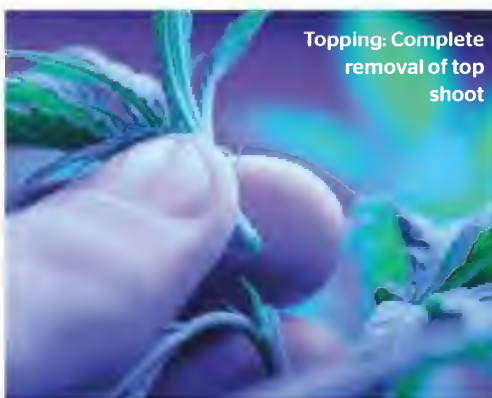


A cylindrical metal trellis has plants growing out from its center and uses metal hooks to support colas.

### Smart Pruning

The next step in creating bigger, bushier plants is to employ a smart pruning program. Pruning cannabis plants is generally done in the earlier stages of development and not during the flowering stage. Pruning is essentially a trade-off: The grower removes one branch in order to get two more. Depending on the technique, some pruning methods may garner four or even eight times as many branches for the price of sacrificing just one. This occurs because when a plant suddenly loses a limb hormones called *auxins* signal a growth spurt in the pruned or damaged area. However, growers must take care not to overprune their plants, which can put them in a state of shock and burden their internal processes with too much stress, causing slower development.

Most growers who employ a pruning program prefer to take off the top, or terminal, shoot. The result is that two offshoots directly below the cut begin to grow vigorously and become *two* main top shoots, creating a pair of top colas instead of just one. If this technique is employed sparingly around the top and sides of the plant, it will create more main shoots and increase not only development, but also yields.



### Topping vs. FIMing

Two of the most popular methods for pruning can be a bit confusing for first-time growers. Topping a plant, also known as “pinching off,” is a technique that has been around since the early days of agriculture. But to understand the technique, it is important to understand the simple science behind it, especially the term apical dominance.

Apical dominance is a trait that manifests via the terminal (or top) shoot of a plant, and it is what guides the upward direction of growth. It is also closely associated with the center or main stem or trunk. Apical dominance is governed by the production of auxins in the terminal shoot. Normally, these auxins inhibit the growth of lateral shoots below. However, with the removal of the terminal shoot, there is a decrease of certain auxins throughout the plant, allowing the lower lateral shoots to produce new, vigorous growth. Therefore, to “top” a plant is to remove the terminal shoot. This can be done a few times, but only during the vegetative stage. After the first terminal shoot is removed, there may be two or four shoots to remove the second or third time around.

A similar technique is FIMing. However, in FIMing, instead of entirely removing the top shoot, the grower uses fine trimmer scissors to remove the top 80 percent or so of the terminal node. This cut leaves the top shoot looking flat and leveled, like a freshly mown lawn. The result of this cut will be the formation of multiple lateral offshoots beneath the terminal shoot—more than would normally occur with standard topping techniques. However, some growers prefer not to mutilate shoots and would rather make a clean cut at the node so that the plant heals more quickly and there is less chance for infection.



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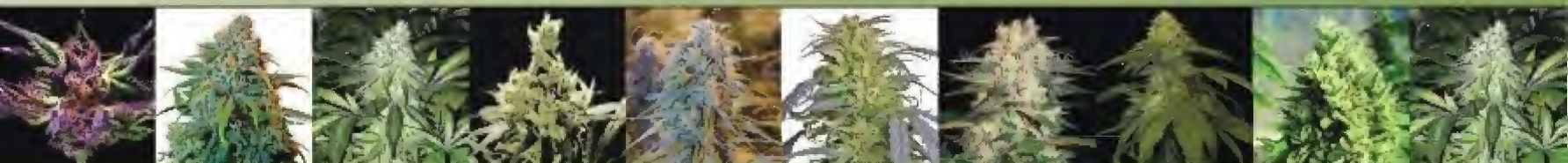
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String netting makes for excellent trellising in indoor SOG gardens.

## Trellising

Trellising is perhaps one of the most underrated techniques in all of cannabis horticulture. It can be used in any setting in both indoor and outdoor gardens, and is one of the few practices that is wholly agricultural and not found in nature.

A trellis is a system of latticework or crosses, created with any material such as wood, steel or string, that helps to support a growing plant's limbs; the trellis can also be used to train the plant to grow in certain ways. When used in conjunction with smart pruning techniques, a trellis system can help to increase yields by as much as 20 or 30 percent.

Trellising should be put into place over a garden while the plants are still very young and in their vegetative phase. Indoor growers often use string or rope netting, as it is extremely flexible and can easily be cut to fit over any size garden. When using string trellising in an indoor garden, it is usually advisable to secure the trellis system about six inches above the garden canopy to allow the plants to begin to grow up and through the trellis naturally. As the plants start to get pruned, new offshoots will grow vigorously and should be carefully trained outwards and up through the net.

In greenhouse and outdoor grow



Perfect results from trellising: an airy 12' tree with dozens of top colas.

ops, where space is less of a concern and plants can grow much larger, various types of trellising can be created to suit a garden's needs. In many large-scale grows, the trelliswork is typically deployed in a vertical fashion, as opposed to horizontally in smaller indoor gardens. This is mainly due to the fact that outdoor plants grow more like actual trees and can reach heights of 10

to 14 feet (or even taller). In these situations, many farmers utilize tall wooden or metal structures to help stabilize plants and spread their limbs to encourage outward growth.

In an outdoor setting, growers have a choice of many materials from which to create a trellis system. Perhaps one of the most ingenious employs basic metal-wire rebar used for concrete forms. Rolling this material into a cylinder (approximately three feet in diameter) and placing it around individual plants can work wonders: As the plants grow upwards and bush outwards as the result of smart pruning, the additional limbs are pulled through the squares of the trelliswork.

Aside from the support the branches get, there are other important benefits of trellising. As the limbs are spread apart, there is much better light penetration allowed throughout the entire plant. The spreading of limbs also allows for maximum airflow. The added respiration aids in photosynthesis and also helps prevent moisture buildup that can lead to mold or botrytis. But the primary function of the trellis is to support and stabilize the top and lateral shoots created via pruning. In the end, these extra limbs are what produce the added weight that will boost your yields come harvest time. 🌿

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# top gl

The world of functional glass art—pieces that are made to be used and admired—is fueled by the dedication and imagination of the artists who have transformed the medium. *By Dan Skye*

*I dream my painting and I paint my dream.* —Vincent Van Gogh





# ass

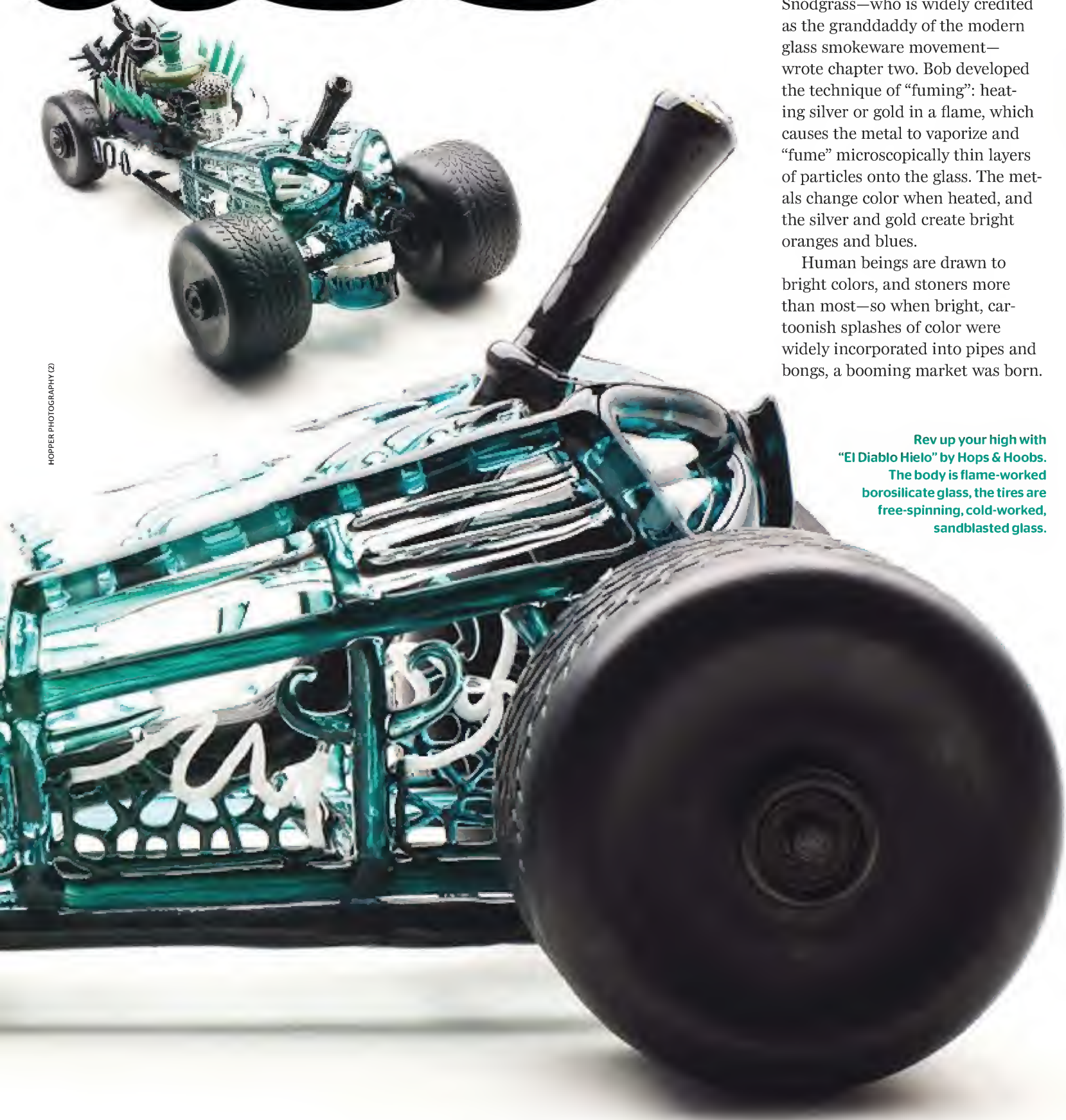
**Y**ou have to wonder how the first glass pipe was created. Most likely it was the result of some stoner lab rat playing with his Bunsen burner back in the '70s, someone who decided to stick a Pyrex tube into the flame to seal one end, then poked a hole in the tube's wall to create a bowl and—*eureka!*—wound up with the perfect clean-hitting vessel for pot smoking. And the rest, as they say, is history.

If that was chapter one, then Bob Snodgrass—who is widely credited as the granddaddy of the modern glass smokeware movement—wrote chapter two. Bob developed the technique of “fuming”: heating silver or gold in a flame, which causes the metal to vaporize and “fume” microscopically thin layers of particles onto the glass. The metals change color when heated, and the silver and gold create bright oranges and blues.

Human beings are drawn to bright colors, and stoners more than most—so when bright, cartoonish splashes of color were widely incorporated into pipes and bongs, a booming market was born.

Rev up your high with “El Diablo Hielo” by Hops & Hoobs. The body is flame-worked borosilicate glass, the tires are free-spinning, cold-worked, sandblasted glass.

HOPPER PHOTOGRAPHY (2)





Clockwise, from above: Yes, folks, this is a functional pipe. “Spiderweb” was created by Blacky. Arron Siver-son is responsible for the eerie neon fill; Why would an Egyptian god be carrying a ghetto blaster while strolling next to the pyramids? Ask the artist Hoobs, who always gives free reign to his imagination; In a whimsical mood, Carsten Carlile created “Tiki Rollers,” steamrollers with a tribal theme.



But glass smokeware artists weren't content with color alone; they began adding various well-known cartoon characters to their creations. Then those characters became the pipes themselves. These days, you can purchase a pipe crafted to reflect any possible concept available to the human imagination.

In truth, functional glass art, as practiced by the industry's top glassblowers, is akin to animation, in which any scenario is possible—thereby allowing animation artists to explore the most far-flung reaches of their imagination. Obviously, glass art is bounded by the laws of physics, but no other three-dimensional medium allows the artist to work in color and form so freely. Want to smoke out of a spider web? You can do that. How about a snowboarding skeleton? No problem. Any object that you can imagine can be made into a pipe; any abstraction that flits through your brain can be made tangible.

Unfortunately, the federal government has no appreciation of functional glass art. Back in 1996, the Supreme Court ruled that the term “drug paraphernalia” refers to “metal, wooden, acrylic, glass, stone, plastic, or ceramic pipes with or without screens, permanent screens, hashish heads, or punctured metal bowls.” The penalty for selling such items is imprisonment for not more than three years, along with various fines.

Needless to say, the world of functional glass art is populated by outlaws—very much like the world of cannabis. So the pipes keep coming and consumers keep buying. And no federal law will ever harness the imagination.





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Clockwise, from top: "Tire Shredder" by Hops & Hoobs is another of their exquisite collaborations utilizing flame-worked borosilicate glass; "Crystal Veil" by Justin Jenicke and Big Z is a reference to the secrecy necessary to produce pipe art; Phil of Prism Glassworks created this dragon with jaws agape. He named it "Green Monster" (not a reference to the Boston Red Sox).



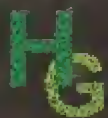
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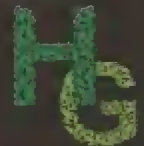
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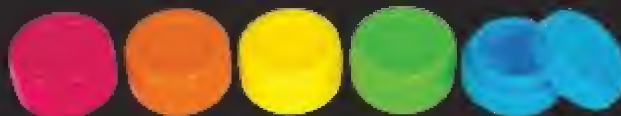
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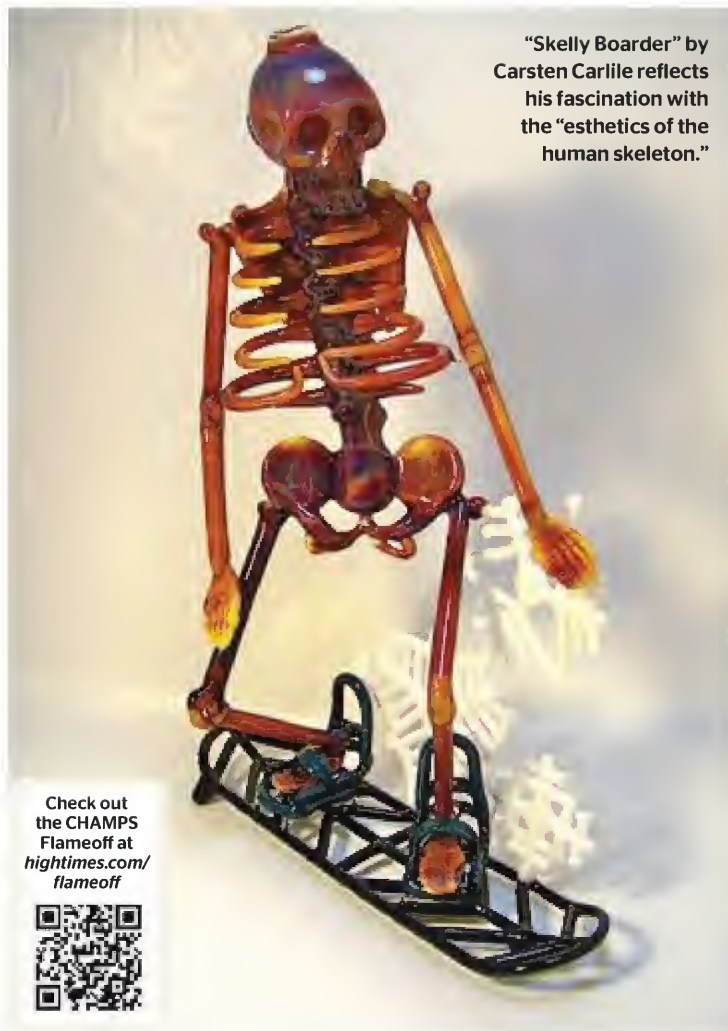
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"Skelly Boarder" by Carsten Carlile reflects his fascination with the "aesthetics of the human skeleton."

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"The Guyser Throne" is a collaboration of the artists Calvin and Brandon Martin and stands two feet tall.

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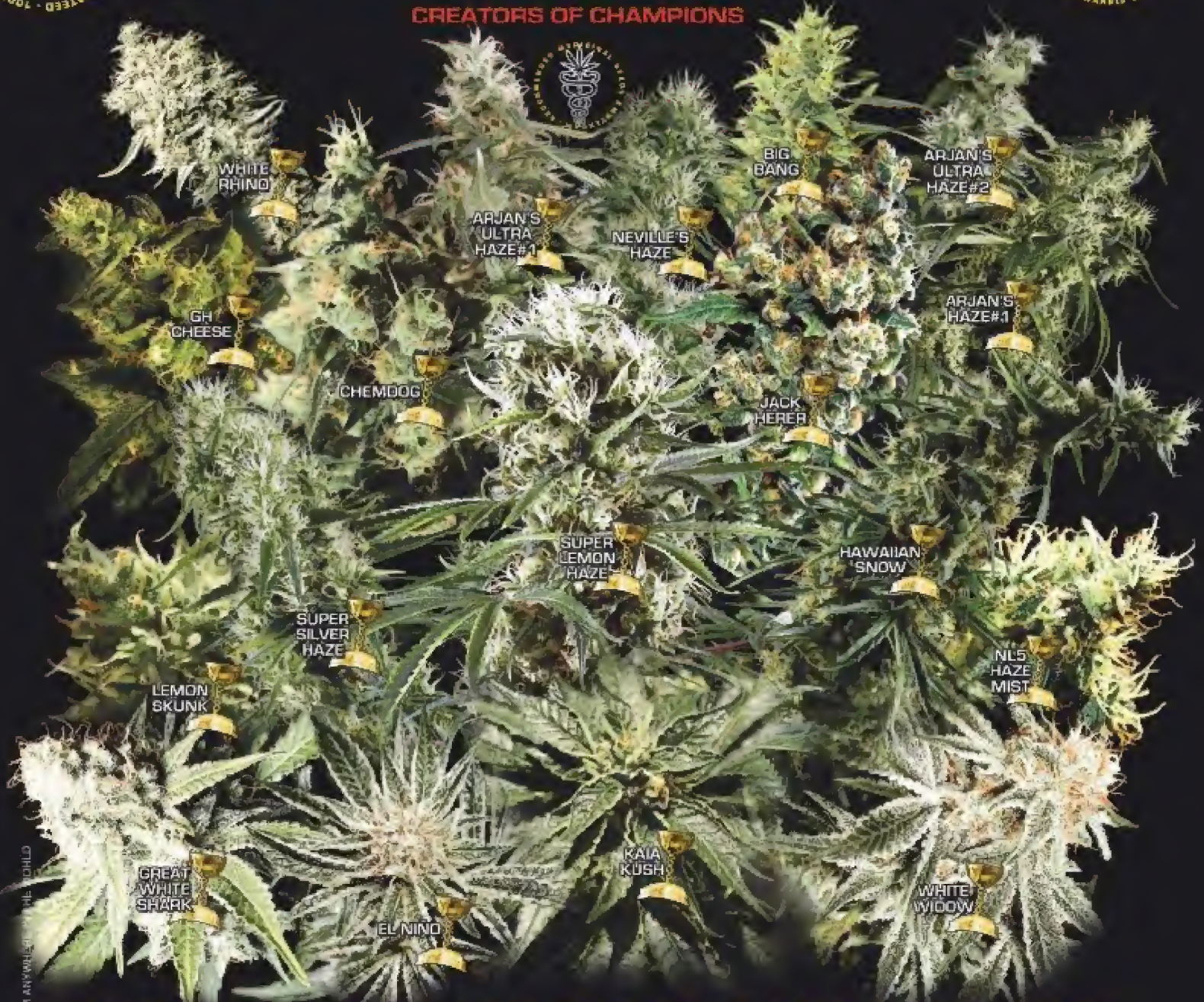


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# Jamaican Har

Ever bought a bag of herb on the beach in Negril? Then follow a journey that starts in the ghettos of Kingston, Jamaica, and ends in the lush ganja fields of Westmoreland parish to find out how it got there.

*Story by Chris Simunek. Photos by Brian Jahn*

**I**t's a quiet night in the ghetto as we drive through pitted Kingston streets lit yellow beneath the buzzing streetlamps. We're headed to Kiki's, the premier herb spot in this part of town, immortalized in songs by Junior Reid and others. Besides photographer Brian Jahn, I'm accompanied by Carlton, our ital chef, fixer and Rastafari spiritual adviser. With Carlton at the wheel, we crisscross through a few back streets—low-slung houses behind concrete walls, kids playing ball despite the late hour.

To the outsider, Kiki's doesn't look like much: a food cart, some music playing, about a dozen young men hanging out. But Kiki's has the best herb in this part of Kingston, known as "high-grade." Carlton conducts business from the driver's seat, while Brian and I keep our windows rolled down just enough so that no more than a forearm can reach inside the vehicle. The sight of two whiteboys in the car kicks the hustlers into high gear. They have about two minutes to discover what possible opportunities might be derived from this curious visitation.

"Give me a likkle someting? One 'undred J."

With Kingston hustlers, it's best to be a zombie. Don't get excited. Don't ever be rude. Take comfort in monosyllables. Yes. No. Thank you. Good-bye.

Over the next few days, Carlton, Brian and I will be tracking this high-grade to its source: the verdant hills in Westmoreland parish. With a six-hour drive through the heart of the island ahead of us in the morning, this stop at Kiki's is the last thing on our to-do list.





# vest Tour





Harvested buds waiting to be trimmed; (inset) a White Fall cola.

Over the 15 or so years that I've been coming to Jamaica, I've seen the quality of the ganja improve remarkably. There's still plenty of that dog-brown stuff the place is known for, but someone has been sending seeds here, and Kiki's is a testament to that fact. The business of ganja is the same as ever, though: Cops still throw kids in jail for simple possession, forcing them to pay fines with money they don't have, and leaving them with a record that precludes them from getting a civil service job or a visa to visit the States. Growers still see their fields get hacked down. Despite the crucial role that ganja plays in the Jamaican economy, ganja law is still a tool of oppression.

**The next morning**, beneath the guidance of His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I, the three of us set out on our quest. As the dented road beneath us jumbles my innards, Carlton tells the story of the last time he and Brian attempted to cross the island, a journey plagued by Odysseus-sized setbacks. Over the cacophony of the car's engine and various other sounds blowing through the windows, I struggle

***You sit back and tell yourself that Jah will provide—and if for some reason He doesn't, you deal with it then.***

to understand Carlton's patois-heavy speech. I catch a handful of key words—"Negril," "fat girls," "Brian," "tires," "bum-baclot," "too fat," "mash-up," "spare"—and piece together their meaning.

It seems that the two of them, along with a couple of Brian's lady friends who were apparently on the heavy side, had been making this same trip, on the same road, in the middle of the night, when one of their tires blew out.

One thing about Carlton I should mention: It's his firm belief that refrigeration is a toxic Babylon invention, so he's forever hunting the freshest, most perfect mango, pineapple, orange, coconut, tamarind, bread fruit, green juice, Irish moss, river fish, ganja or homegrown

tobacco leaf. He's about five feet tall and 100 pounds—10 of which could be accounted for by his dreadlocks—and of all the deadly sins on this earth, gluttony is the one that vexes him most.

So when he and Brian got a flat tire on that dark road, Carlton, in the most caustic manner possible, laid the blame on their heavysset passengers' inability to abide by Jah's ital dietary plan. Spewing maledictions, Carlton removed the tire and replaced it with the spare, only to have another tire blow out. Mile after mile, the four of them walked in darkness along the same road we're on now, the A2 highway, a route where stranded motorists have been known to vanish forever—or else reappear in a ditch somewhere, completely dead. And while the moral of Carlton's story might be "fat girls mash up your tires," I have the unnerving realization that I am now embarked on the exact same journey, with the same two guys, on the same craterous, tire-eating byway.

But every Jamaican excursion requires some degree of faith. You sit back and tell yourself that Jah will provide—and if for some reason He doesn't, you deal with it then.

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A PVC-fed irrigation system gives this garden the edge.

Hours later, the road turns toward the coast, and Carlton is on the cell phone, trying to contact his brethren with the marijuana field. We link up with a young man—tall, skinny, a little suspicious—and park along the road; then the four of us head into the bush about a quarter-mile, until we come to a swampy clearing hosting about 100 plants. It's the heartiest field I've ever seen in Jamaica, thanks to an irrigation system with PVC pipes and sprinkler heads situated throughout. Our host tells me that he grows a strain called White Fall, and there's also a few Mango buds mixed in that you can differentiate because they have a tendency to turn a bit purple. I ask him if he has any problems growing, and he leads me to one rotting bud, picks a caterpillar out of the center and drops it in my hand.

"What do you use for fertilizer?" I ask.

"Fertilizer," he replies. "We plant when the moon is young. Rats eat the seeds if there's no moon."

"What about cops?" I ask.

***"No one come here, our host solemnly says. 'This ting no joke. This is death and life here.'"***



"They come hunting every two weeks." "If they find you, what does it cost to make them go away?"

"Twenty thousand Jamaican," he says. "They are always taking our money or taking our plants and selling them."

It's starting to rain, so we all walk over to a little shed where rows of harvested plants are hanging on a line with their fan leaves still attached.

"When you trim the plants in America, do you pay by the hour or by the pound?" our host asks me.

"I'm not really sure."

"It cost me 25,000 Jamaican," he laments. "One thousand for each person—plus lunch!"

Looking at all the ganja hanging out in the open, I ask, "Do you worry about thieves?"

"No one come here," our host solemnly says. "This ting no joke. This is death and life here."

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Cops smashed these growers' reservoir. As a result, plants were not as hearty.

**The next morning**, our plan is to get out to the fields before the sun reaches its midday intensity. But in Jamaica, a plan is little more than a wish. Breakfast takes an hour and a half, and it's nearly noon when we set out.

Back in Kingston, our brethren Kiddus I, the great reggae singer and one of the stars of the classic '70s film *Rockers*, had given us directions to a little hamlet in the hills, where we were supposed to look up a Rasta named Buddy. Creaking and sputtering, our car makes it up a winding dirt road until we come to a little intersection, where we're soon surrounded by a group of youths inquiring as to the purpose of our visit. We have Buddy's number, but Carlton's cell is dead.

"We're looking for a Rasta bredrin—Buddy," Carlton explains. One of the kids thinks he knows who we mean and sets off to find him. Meanwhile, Carlton goes in search of food, and Brian and I sit in the car with our zombie faces on, politely refusing a number of offers and entreaties from the growing crowd of locals.

We're both high, and it's too hot to roll up the windows. I'm feeling a few steps removed from reality as I watch a skinny,

toothless man reach into the car, open the door from the inside and plant himself in the seat next to me.

"Can I help you?" I ask, more curious than alarmed.

"I'm Buddy! Kiddus's bredrin!"

I laugh and shake hands with him the way they do it in that part of the island, locking fingers together and doing a little thumb dance on top. We drive higher into the hills along a dirt road and arrive at a bar—a small wooden shack next to a seating area crafted out of tin and scrap wood.

Joined by a few others, we walk down a sunny street lined with houses and head into the jungle brush along a trail that is more an idea for a path than anything else. It's mid-afternoon, and my body starts pouring sweat from every conceivable pore as we hike over the craggy, rock and push through twisted, prickly jungle vines that whip against my face in the wake of the man I'm following. Deeper and deeper, we plunge into the brush. The man in front yells a warning of some kind one second before I feel a spike sink into the flesh of my forearm, the thorn hole like a tiny mouth singing blood.

Finally, we arrive at our destination and are led through three ganja patches, spread out so as to avoid detection by helicopters. Old tires make for perfect planters here, since the growers can fill them with topsoil and let the roots grow down into the porous volcanic tuft. I ask what strains they're growing, and they rattle off a list that includes Mango, Kush, AK-47 and Blueberry.

Buddy bemoans the fact that they can't get a true breeding program off the ground here to maintain the integrity of their strains—no time, no space. When they do get their hands on some quality seeds, the plants end up pollinating amongst them-

## **Soldiers ride into town and start drinking at the bar until someone hands them 25,000 J to go away.**

selves, and after a few generations, whatever was special about them is gone.

Water has been their biggest problem, though, and it's the reason the plants here are so short. The growers show me a large plastic reservoir that was demolished by the cops the last time around. Law enforcement is a constant nuisance. Soldiers ride into town and start drinking at the bar until someone hands them 25,000 J to go away—unless, that is, there's a sergeant with them. "Then they have to work that day," Buddy laughs.

Once Brian is done taking pictures, we backtrack to the bar and start rolling spliffs from Buddy's private stash. Despite all the difficulties, the herb is quite nice—perfect for this hot and lazy afternoon.

To hear Buddy tell it, this area was a whole different place in the boom years of the 1970s. Peter Tosh, who hailed from nearby Grange Hill, was a friend and frequent visitor. Before the Reagan-era eradication programs, when Jamaican exports were still in high demand in the States, this town was something to see.

"Back then, we had a landing strip not too far from here, with planes landing six or seven times a day," Buddy recalls. "There'd be one plane on the strip, and another in the air waiting." From what I can gather, Buddy was either on or meeting one of those planes when it was intercepted in Miami. He wound up doing serious time in the States before being deported back to Jamaica.



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**Our plan is** to be on the road to Kingston before it gets too late, but by the time we say our good-byes, the sun is already hanging low in the sky. Between the spliffs and the Red Stripes, I've forgotten all about the six-hour drive ahead. Carlton gathers our stash together and hides it beneath the tire well in the trunk. Between the two gardens we've visited, we've assembled about a half-pound of different varieties that we're planning to take back to the house of our friend, reggae legend Chinna Smith, to help fuel the all-night jams he hosts on the porch of his house.

So we're driving in the dark, and I'm sitting in stoned contemplation, thinking about all the nervous ganja runners who must cruise back and forth on this road day after day, when suddenly the car bounces, and there's a strange warbling sound coming from outside. Miles from anywhere, we drive on until we can no longer deny the obvious. Getting out of the car, we're all greeted by the sad sight of our right front tire, flatter than a day-old beer. The last town is miles back, the next one dozens of miles ahead.

Carlton springs into action, getting the jack and spare out of the trunk, placing rocks in front of the tires so the car



The nuggets of Negril

doesn't roll. The thing is, the three of us together can't get the lug nuts off. At one point, Carlton becomes convinced that there's a lock on them, and so we toss the car looking for some magic key that doesn't exist. In all the years I've known him, this is the first time I've ever seen Carlton worried. Not only are we sitting ducks for robbers or worse, but the sight of a dreadlock and two whiteboys stranded on the road will no doubt excite the curiosity of any cop who drives by. And it's not like the police will pull over and give us a lift to the next gas station. If they stop, the first thing they're going to do is pop the trunk.

So when a van suddenly pulls over and a hulking man gets out and approaches

us, we don't know what to think. He turns out to be our savior, though, providing the extra muscle we need to get the stubborn bolts off the dead tire. Once we do, Carlton slaps the spare on; then we thank the benevolent stranger and start back on the road.

For the next four or five hours, I sit heavy in my seat, trying not to think about the last time these two jokers (and their hefty consorts) were in this same situation. One pothole away from catastrophe, I realize I'm experiencing the kind of pressure drop felt by all ganja dealers every time they make this trip. With no spare tire, and only a half-inch of rubber separating me from certain misery, potential incarceration and possible violent death, I have to put my faith in Jah.

In the end, it works. The three of us are able to plunk down that half-pound on Chinna's kitchen table and then sit back and enjoy a long jam session with singing and guitars and Niyabinghi drums that lasts deep into the night. I am grateful. I am lucky. I am charmed. I have gotten to enjoy the gifts of Jamaica's ganjamen, and at the same time I was able to sample their fear. "Who feels it knows it," Bob Marley once sang—and why else was I here but to learn the truth? ✨

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by DAN SKYE  
& DANNY DANKO

# REDMAN TALKING

## THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

**R**EGGIE NOBLE (A.K.A. REDMAN) EMERGED FROM NEWARK, NJ, AS A MEMBER OF DEF SQUAD, FAMOUSLY APPEARING ON EPMD'S *BUSINESS AS USUAL* WITH A UNIQUE VOICE AND IMPECCABLE RHYME DELIVERY. HIS SUBSEQUENT SOLO RECORDS, *WHUT? THEE ALBUM*, *DARE IZ A DARKSIDE* AND *MUDDY WATERS*, FIRMLY CEMENTED HIM AS A '90S-ERA HIP-HOP SUPERSTAR. BUT IT'S WHAT HE'S BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH SINCE THEN THAT IS MOST REMARKABLE.

REDMAN DOMINATES THE MIXTAPE SCENE WITH HIS *ILL AT WILL* SERIES. HIS COLLABORATIONS WITH DEF JAM LABELMATE METHOD MAN MORPHED INTO THE MOTION PICTURE *HOW HIGH* AS WELL AS THE TV SITCOM *METHOD AND RED*. THEY CONTINUE TO TRAVEL THE WORLD TOGETHER PERFORMING FOR SMOKED-OUT CROWDS EVERYWHERE. REDMAN'S MORE RECENT ALBUMS, SUCH AS *RED GONE WILD* AND *BLACKOUT 2!*, SHOW THAT HIS REPUTATION AS "YOUR FAVORITE RAPPER'S FAVORITE RAPPER" REMAINS INTACT.

REDMAN WEARS HIS STONER BADGE PROUDLY AND OPENLY ON HITS LIKE "HOW HIGH," "HOW TO ROLL A BLUNT" AND MANY OTHERS.

HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL THINGS MARIJUANA—INCLUDING *HIGH TIMES*—IS AN ESPECIALLY LONG ONE. TWENTY YEARS AGO, HE GRACED THE COVER OF OUR MARCH 1993 ISSUE. SINCE THEN, HE'S CO-HOSTED THE STONY AWARDS AND APPEARED NUMEROUS TIMES AS A PERFORMER AT HT EVENTS IN THE US AND ABROAD.

IN FACT, THIS MOST RECENT INTERVIEW WITH REDMAN TOOK PLACE AT THE HIGH TIMES MEDICAL CANNABIS CUP IN SAN BERNARDINO THIS PAST FEBRUARY. HE JUDGED THE *INDICA* CATEGORY—EVEN THOUGH HE'S A DEVOUT "SATIVA GUY"—AND STILL HAD PLENTY OF ENERGY TO SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS HIS LONGEVITY IN THE EVER-CHANGING MUSIC AND FILM INDUSTRIES.

**You were on our cover two decades ago! How are things different since then?**

Of course, the bud got stronger, and the media part of bud has improved. I think the knowledge of this plant has been broadened, too. For example, Oaksterdam University is teaching about the properties of weed—how to help patients and stuff. People know that it's not just for getting high.

**You've been out there for 20 years—20 years of activism. Your career is linked with pot.**

Like I tell fans all the time with Meth: We're *known* for smoking. And we don't hide it when the media's around or when that *important* person's around. We let 'em know this is what we do.

**You even did a centerfold that showed how to roll a blunt. That was pretty influential.**

Yeah, y'all was right there at the beginning of my career, man. I used to always see your magazines when I was young, but when I got in the game, when I first seen the Cypress Hill cover [March '92], that's what turned me on. We were still smokin' kind of brownish weed or whatever. It was the first time I'd seen some really bright green weed that was up on y'all's cover. I was like: "There's weed out there that look like this? I gotta be a part of it!"

**You also told us a funny story about dealing weed a while back—somebody drove away on you or something?**

[Laughing] Oh yeah, yeah, that's right. It was a late night. I was selling, and I was down to like maybe my last 15 bags or whatever. I was thinkin' I can stand out there and just sell to each car, but I was greedy and wanted to sell *all* of it to this one car, so I could be through.

It was late and there was hardly nobody out there. So I'm lettin' this dude check the weed. Then that nigga snatched my bag. *Vroom!* He took off with my 15 bags! I was cheated—I was fucking cheated! But that's what you gotta go through, man, dealing that way.

**Obviously, you're very outspoken about your consumption. Does it play a role in your creative process?**

Absolutely. Marijuana's more like a way of life for me now. I'm more of a *sativa* guy, 'cause I work a lot. What kind of sparks what I'm working on is Blue Dream—any of them sharp-tastin', sharp-smellin' *sativas*. *Indica* makes me sleep. I don't wanna sleep and be tired; I like good energy, a good vibe. I'm definitely a *sativa* guy.

**How do you perceive the progress of marijuana legalization?**

The growth of it and the



Redman in Los Angeles. The veteran rapper has never hidden his love of great weed.

DAN SKYE

laws are better, especially in Colorado. Big up to Colorado and Washington for being the first states to pass it. They're not afraid. I think Colorado gets the picture of what's really goin' on. The bud gang was serious there. I think that it's a well-governed state—big up to 'em. Jersey is the 16th state passed they little law, but we ain't *legalized* it yet.

#### When did you first experience marijuana?

With my uncles when I was down south in Alabama. We were shooting, hunting—I was maybe like 12 or 13, and they let me hit the joint. I hit the joint for the first time and a rabbit rolled right past me. Instead of shootin' it, I tried pokin' with the rifle. And my uncles, they like: "No, nigga! Shoot the damn rabbit!"

I used to always wonder what my uncles were smokin'. I was young, but so eager to know: "That's not a cigarette; that's not what my pops usually smokes. It smells almost like poultry or something like that." But once they let me hit it, it was *on* from there.

#### Back at the 2009 Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam, you were the headliner. Any memories you can share?

It was fuckin' *fabulous*. It was the first Cup where I really judged; I was in the house with the fuckin' jars and the hash everywhere. It was kind of a festival in the house. We rolled out a big layer of hash, then we put weed on top of it and rolled the hash and smoked a big hash blunt with weed in it. It was incredible!

#### You were a bit late for your performance at the Melkweg. What happened that night?

I think I was just so mellow. Sometimes I get anxiety attacks and I have to slow down.

#### Performance anxiety?

More like *happy* anxiety.



Method Man and Redman share a special comic chemistry.

"We rolled out a big layer of hash, then we put weed on top of it and rolled the hash and smoked a big hash blunt with weed in it. It was incredible!"

Like there's so many things going on, like [pretends to hyperventilate] and I can't stop. It was overwhelming. I got caught in the coffee-shop just tryin' to mellow and all, man. But I got there, you know?

#### What have you been up to lately?

As far as the music, I'm doing the *Muddy Waters II* album, which will be an album dedicated to the '90s, with that '90s feel. I got shit up in the air; there's some offers.

#### Who impresses you in the new generation of rap artists?

The new MCs I'm bumping are the ones puttin' in work and respectin' the craft—J. Cole, Kendrick Lamar. I

think Gunplay is definitely kind of different, man. He offers something to the game. I heard a couple of A\$AP Rocky. I think he cool, holdin' down uptown, yo. I like what 2 Chainz is offering to the game, even though he's an OG—not an OG because he's young, but he's damned near from our era, you know what I'm saying?

#### How about outside of hip-hop?

I'm still into the old shit, man. Like, I couldn't even tell you new R&B dudes. I'm listening to so many styles of music, and it's just all *old*. I'm still listening to Kenny Loggins and the Doobie Brothers; I'm still in that phase, man. The Manhattan Transfer—yeah, I'm serious! I'm an

enigma. It takes a lot for me to get into certain kinds of new music nowadays. It gotta groove; it gotta have melody, yeah. But my stereo and my car bumps nothing but my iPod.

#### A lot of stars have gotten into the digital thing and are cutting out the middleman and going directly to their fans.

That's the move I wanna deal with, too, man. I'm gettin' that straight. Red and Meth is workin' on another album as well—after our solo albums, we're gonna put out another *Blackout III*. And we wanna do another movie—that's definitely!

We just free agents. The movie game is sort of like the music game now: If you find somebody with a little cash, you can shoot some hard, independent films with the kind of cameras they got now. You can get something *done*. We got a couple of things on the table, but the music is the love first. So we're going to get some music out this summer.

#### You're known for comedy as well as rap. When did you first realize you could make people laugh?

We learned that shit mainly from school. But our moms—when you can make your mother laugh, you know you do good. You know you got a little thing goin' on. I can make my mother laugh. Even still to this day, we talk about things, we joke around, we laugh our ass off!

#### What makes you and Meth so good together?

The chemistry between me and Meth is unexplainable. The beauty of it is that we two guys that don't have an ego. We understand the situation. Listen, dude: We have a chance to come together to make money and still have our separate careers—and still make money! I mean, you don't turn that down and be



# Buddha s e e d s

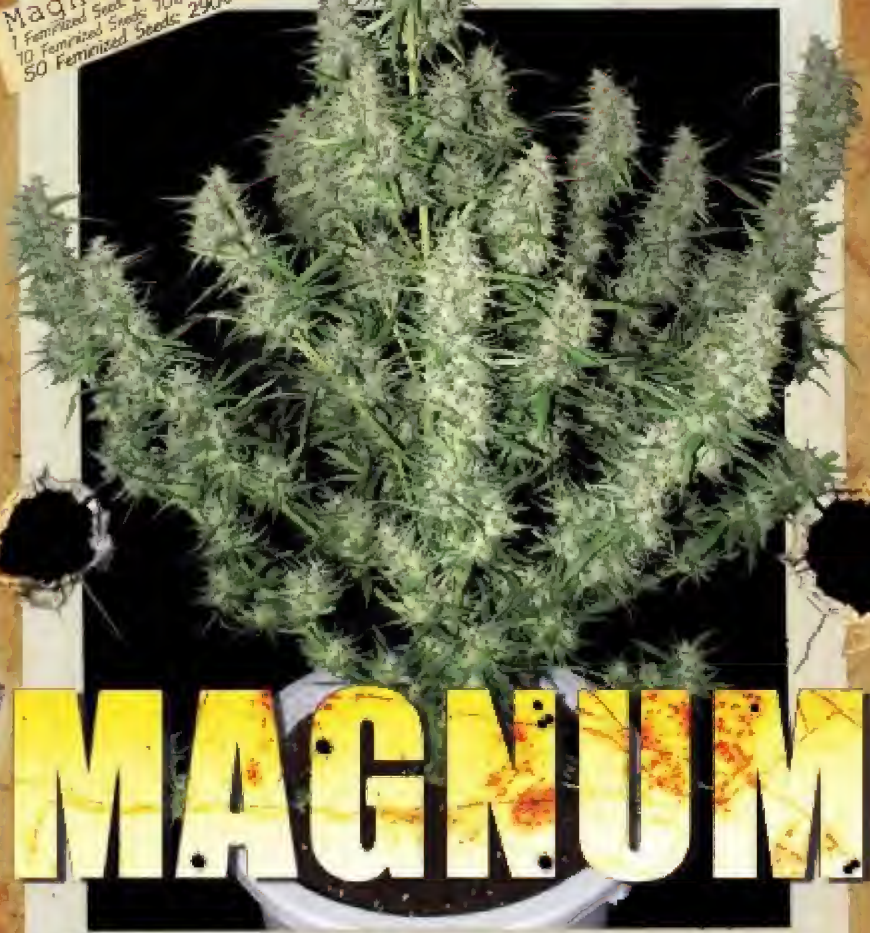


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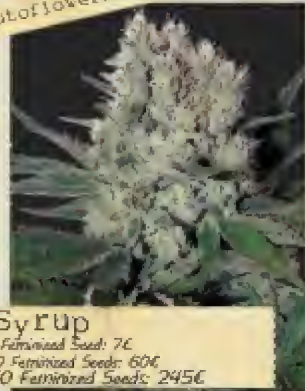
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stupid to an offer like that in life. You know, it ain't gonna tamper and taint what you're doin' over here. Usually, when two guys try to do business and come together, they tamper and taint their business over here.

**Any regrets about being so closely associated with pot?**

We might have made some faulty career moves—maybe Coca-Cola wanted us to do a commercial or something, but they just wouldn't let us because Red and Meth promote marijuana. So, yes, we've been deterred from some deals throughout our career because of what we promote, man. But, hey, we just say "Fuck it!" and keep pushing—and we still here. And our benefit from it was a movie—*How High*—so it works out both ways.

**Will you ever make a sequel?**

We wanted to ... then Universal got the rights for the characters in the movie, and they wouldn't let us go to another company with the name and the characters. But we want to do something new. I got a super-crazy movie in mind. The first Red and Meth movie was kind of my idea—I wanted to do a movie on campus, sort of like *Animal House*. I got the next one about what's going on right now, and I'm piecing it together. Maybe *High Times* can shoot it. That's right—a *High Times* film. We need that. Why not?

**Are you comfortable as a celebrity, or does it get tiresome?**

There are some celebrities that know how to work with the people, and those who don't know how



Red calls himself a "blue collar MC."

**"Don't nobody want to be around no thug, hard motherfucker all the fuckin' time that don't know how to have fun and all that bullshit."**

to work with the people. I'm the kind of guy that was always on the good side. I'm a people's man—I'm one of those blue-collar MCs for the people. Usually, when I meet fans, I'm so nice or whatever. Fans are tellin' me about another celebrity that they met that was an asshole. I think, "Well, maybe he had a bad day."

**Still, you must have had some difficult moments.**

That's when being nice, bein' real comes into play. For instance, if I'm out with my kids, I don't sign autographs unless it's another family with kids. Then I say, "Okay, I'll sign because of the kids." But when I'm with my kids, that's *their* time.

But when I'm not with my kids, I'm always a nice guy: "Yeah, come over, we take a picture." I like people to leave sayin', "I like him—he's so nice." I get a thrill off of that.

But sometimes I'm that nice guy and I get an asshole that just keep punchin' and keep on tryin' to pull the plug, pull the plug. And it get to a point where I know that I'm nice, and everybody around me *see* that I'm nice, and he making *himself* look like an asshole. So you go into a quick check mode, like: "Yo, listen, bro, I told you that I'm busy. You see I'm busy right here now. Now, you're being disrespectful."

I get into a tone that's kind of loud, tellin' him to chill, I'm dealin' with somebody else first: "If you wanna wait, I will get right to you. If not, you gonna have to go about your business." And I leave it at that. Once I say that, in my tone, he see that I'm a nice guy; I'm not an asshole. He usually calms down after that.

**Many artists flash and burn quickly; they're here and they're gone. What's sustained your career?**

Versatility—how you portray yourself in your career, how you introduce yourself. You gotta understand, these guys that come out: "I'm this hard guy, I'm this thug guy," whatever—don't nobody want to be around no thug, hard motherfucker all the fuckin' time that don't know how to have fun and all that bullshit. Get the fuck out of here! That ain't the way. That shit is old-school shit, you know what I mean?

I tell people I'm a nerd. Even though I'm from the hood or whatever, I'm a nerd. Sometimes I might fuck up somethin' and you'd be like: "Damn, you're a nerd!" I *know* I'm a nerd, shit, and a guy like me is not afraid to say it. I don't have nothin' to hide. ✨

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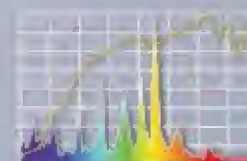
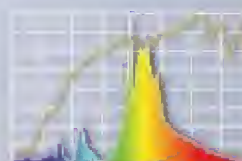
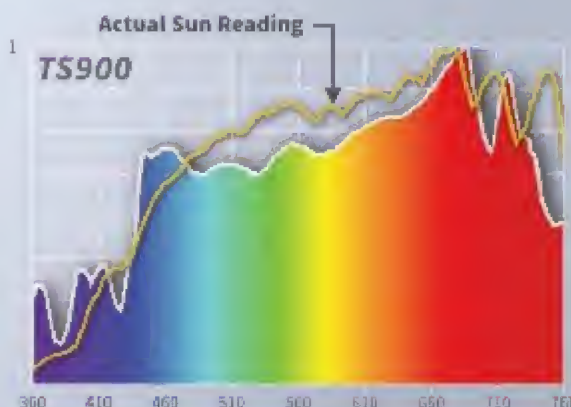
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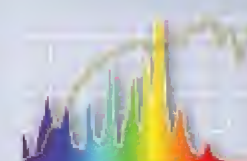
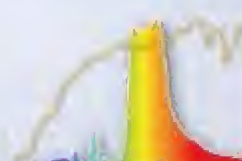
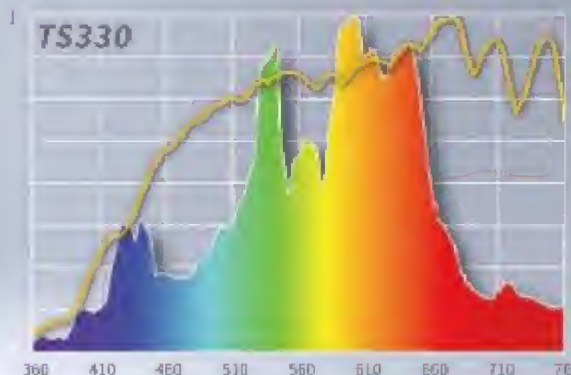


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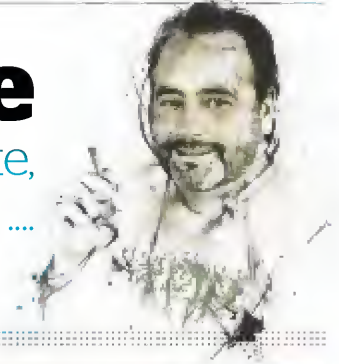
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A close-up look at several trichomes shows the color of the contents of the gland heads.

SUBJECT: **When to Harvest?**

FROM: **Humpy**

🌿 I'm new at this. I have a 30-60x microscope; however, I still have a problem determining when the crop is ready to harvest. Can I just use the change in color as a good indicator of ripeness?

Dear Humpy,

The change of color is important, but it isn't the color of the leaf, bud or hairs; it's the color inside the tiny trichome. These gland heads look like tiny clear mushrooms; as the plant matures, they begin to go cloudy, and then eventually the cloudy part starts to turn amber. You want to harvest when the majority of the gland heads are cloudy (though some will be amber, and some might even still be clear). For a more lethargic high, harvest when the trichomes are mostly amber, but keep in mind that they will continue to deepen in color after harvest.

*Danko Tip:* Trimming parties are a celebration after months of hard work. Provide plenty of food and beverages for your workers to keep their productivity high.



Powdery mildew on leaves should not be mistaken for trichomes.

SUBJECT: **Regular or Feminized?**

FROM **E-Money in Florida**

🌿 When it comes to obtaining seeds, if your main goal is growing and not breeding, what's the difference in the quality of genetics, potency, etc., between regular and feminized seeds? From my understanding, with regular seeds you have to first separate any male plants, then choose the most desirable female based on phenotypes and use that choice as your mom—but with feminized seeds (especially from a good breeder), they are more uniform and consistent. Is that the case, or should you still sprout a few feminized seeds and look for one that stands out above the rest, as you would with regular seeds?

Dear E-Money,  
I don't recommend breeding with feminized seeds, but if you're just looking to grow some decent buds without the

hassle of culling the male plants, then you can use feminized seeds. I wouldn't choose a mother plant from them, however, because in my opinion, you'll find a better keeper for the mom if you grow with regular seeds. But in order to do so, you must first clone the seedlings and then flower out the rooted clones. That way, you can determine the sex and vigor of the corresponding seedlings without ever having to flower the potential mother plants.

The benefit of growing from feminized seeds, conversely, is not having to root clones at all; simply plant the seeds and grow them out to fruition. Using feminized seeds for mother plants and taking clones from them defeats the whole purpose. In other words, regular seeds are best for raising a mother plant from which to take clones to flower, and feminized seeds are best if you don't want to go to the trouble of cloning or culling males from your grow.

SUBJECT: **Yellow Spots**

FROM **Kevin C.**

🌿 I'm growing in dirt, and my leaves suddenly have yellow spots on them. Why would that be? The room temp is 85°F and the humidity is 50%.

Dear Kevin,  
Eighty-five degrees is a bit high, so your problem may be caused by heat—but there are other reasons that leaves get yellow spots, so you need to do more investigation to determine the cause. Fluctuations in pH and some nutrient deficiencies can also cause these types of symptoms. And if you foliar-feed your plants with a nutrient mist, sometimes the liquid can burn the leaves if they're too close to your lights. In that case, raise the lights until any water you've sprayed has evaporated and then lower them again. Also, check the runoff of your nutrient solution with a pH tester and a ppm meter after it has been poured through your soil to diagnose pH inconsistencies or fertilizer issues.

SUBJECT: **Mildewy Taste**

FROM **Brandon H.**

🌿 I know someone who grows in their house. If this house is old and has that "mildewy" smell and it gets into the taste of their bud, what can they do to prevent this? This person is thinking about painting the room with Kilz odor-killing paint and using an air purifier as well. Would this work to get that taste out of the finished product?

Dear Brandon,  
I know exactly what you're talking about—that funky, moldy smell and taste some people get when they grow in damp basements or leaky attics. It can become pervasive if left untreated—and not only is it unpleasant, but it has the potential to be unhealthy as well, particularly for medical marijuana consumers with compromised immune systems.

I think your friend's proposed solution is the best one short of moving the grow to a less mold-prone situation. Completely sealing the grow space, painting with special mold-fighting paint and using an air purifier (and a dehumidifier if humidity levels are always too high) will help mitigate the problem, though the ideal solution would be to move the grow to a better space.

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SUBJECT **Nutrients in the Light**

FROM **Salsa Verde**

🌿 Virtually every nutrient product I've seen has instructions on the label telling you to store it in a dark place. But they aren't kept in the dark at grow stores, so what's up with that? Does this lead to a degradation of the product, and will it lessen the effectiveness of the nutes if they're stored in a non-dark area?

Dear Salsa,

The hope is that the grow store won't have the product in stock long enough to do any real damage to the nutes. The problem arises when growers store their nutrients in their growroom, where they're exposed to high-intensity discharge (HID) lights. I can't tell you how many times I've seen fertilizer bottles kept on a shelf in the grow space, and nutrients will degrade quickly in that kind of scenario.

Some grow shops keep display bottles on their shelves and store the actual product in a dark backroom, but they are few and far between. Your best bet to ensure that you're purchasing a fresh product that hasn't been sitting for months on a shelf under fluorescent lights or—God forbid—sunlight is by asking the clerk if there are any sealed boxes of the nutes you desire. Then, once you get the bottles home, store them in a cool, dark place for the best longevity.

SUBJECT **Buying Ballasts**

FROM **OG Eric**

🌿 I am very interested in starting a garden. I've had some great luck in the past using compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), but I want to work with metal halide (MH) and high-pressure sodium (HPS) lamps. I'm looking up 250-watt ballasts online because I plan to grow about a half-dozen plants in a 3' x 3' or smaller area. My question for you: When it comes to purchasing a ballast, is there something that I need to know about getting the whole setup?

Dear Eric,

You're smart to start with a 250-watt unit. Too many growers set themselves up for failure by buying a light too strong and hot for their space, since 400-, 600- and 1,000-watt HID lights create



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increasing amounts of heat buildup that must be addressed. Moving from CFLs to HID lights is a big step, though you can also use your CFLs for growing seedlings in the vegetative stage and then switch to HPS for flowering.

As for ballasts, most grow lights come as kits with the ballast, bulb and reflector included. This is better than trying to mix and match a ballast to a separate bulb and reflector. Many people favor the new digital ballasts for heat reduction, but I'm not convinced yet that they don't shorten the life of the bulbs substantially. Find a decent 250-watt HPS system specific for growing plants, which should cost between \$200 and \$300, and you'll be fine.

SUBJECT **Bug-Repelling Plants**

FROM **Pete E.**

🌿 Will a citronella plant keep bugs away from my crop?

Dear Pete,

Unfortunately, the only bugs that citronella plants, a type of geranium, actively repel are mosquitoes, and they don't bother cannabis plants—only us. (Though if you do have an issue with mosquitoes in your outdoor garden, you can certainly use these plants to keep them away.) Some better companion plants for cannabis gardens are marigolds, which keep whiteflies away; peppermint, which helps to deter aphids; and dill, which discourages spider mites.

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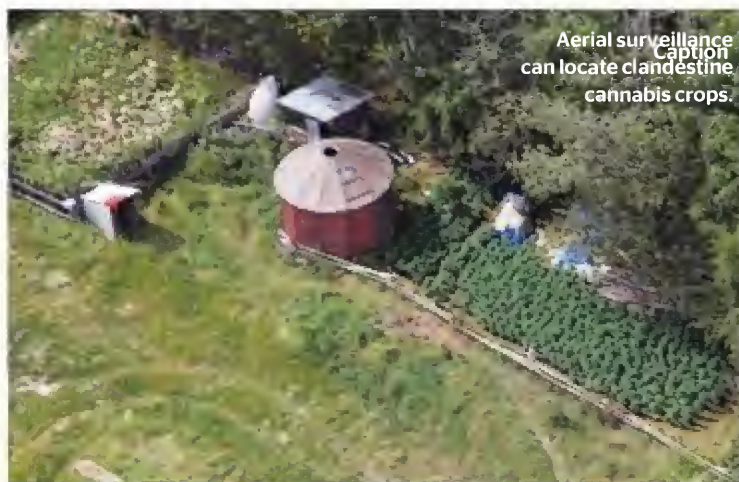
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Aerial surveillance can locate clandestine cannabis crops.

SUBJECT: **Aerial and Digital Surveillance**

FROM: **John Smith**

I have two questions, one crazy and one not.

Not crazy: I've heard that police and federal agents can and do use planes with UV radiation detection equipment to find indoor grow ops. Is this true and, if so, in what counties and states? Also, how does one cope with this: Can you cover a grow area with some material that masks the UV rays and keeps them from being detected? Or can this simply be avoided by using light during normal daylight hours?

Crazy: If you have no criminal past at all, can the government monitor things such as emails, texts, Facebook messages and the like—or through some crazy loophole in the Patriot Act, can they catch one of your emails (maybe even this one) and use it against you for search warrants?

Dear John,

It is true that law enforcement agents conduct aerial searches using heat-detection equipment as one of (what they consider) their deterrents to indoor marijuana growing. This happens in some places and not in others, but to list them all here would be impossible. The police can also monitor people's garbage and have even been known to follow them home from grow shops or take down the license-plate numbers of shoppers at hydro supply stores. Some officers will stop at nothing to find our clandestine crops, and so they hardly let the spirit or even the letter of the law deter them.

As for your digital communications, you should consider anything that you post on the Internet, say over the phone, or text to a companion to be public and monitored. Too many recent disclosures have shown—even to those of us who aren't paranoid conspiracy theorists—that government surveillance is at an all-time high. Apparently, all digital communications, including the content of phone calls made on your cell phone, are recorded and kept in the name of "homeland security."

If that freaks you out, the best way to minimize your worries is to live in a place where you can grow in relative peace. California, Colorado, Oregon, Washington and a handful of other states offer at least a modicum of shelter from the government storm for those of us who wish to cultivate cannabis. As for our rights to privacy and to protection from illegal search and seizure, those won't return until we hold our lawmakers accountable for the actions they've taken in the name of our "freedom." 🌿



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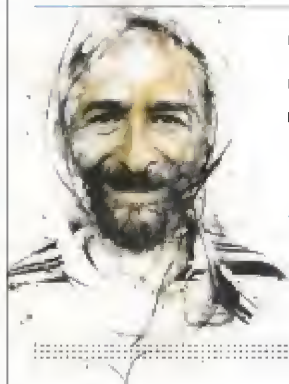


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Is cannabis really the only plant in the entire world that stimulates the body's endocannabinoid system?

*Doubling T.*

Hi T,  
Cannabis is the lone plant that can alter the CB1 receptor—and in legendary ways! But caryophyllene, a cannabis compound found in black pepper, cloves, rosemary and hops, affects the CB2 receptor. We usually think of CB2 receptors as the source of cannabis's anti-inflammatory medicinal effects. It's unclear if caryophyllene is an anti-inflammatory in people, but it seems to work in mice.

Do you think we could develop a strain with no smell?

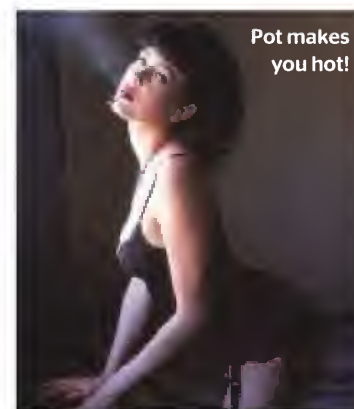
*Bubbler*

Hi Bubbler,  
Fragrances tend to come from flavonoids—and as the name suggests, they contribute to taste as well as smell. Some of them have anti-inflammatory and anti-anxiety properties, so breeding a strain without them might create a plant with fewer benefits. And economically, it's not exactly the greatest way to market a new strain: Just imagine handing someone a bag and saying, "Check this out! It smells like *nothing!*" But if you're concerned about the odor when you smoke, a vaporizer can be your new best friend.

Care to chime in on marijuana and sexual function in women?

*Eager Tom*

Hi Tom,  
I'm not sure I'm qualified! But there are at least four decades-old studies that suggest women experience increased



There are at least four decades-old studies that suggest women experience increased sexual desire, responsiveness and pleasure when using pot.

sexual desire, responsiveness and pleasure when using pot—at least in low doses. However, the plant is definitely *not* a lubricant, and mood and setting are always important.

If you're really eager to increase her desire, try cooking dinner, doing the dishes or helping the kids (if any) with their homework. That might work just as well.

Since chocolate stimulates the release of anandamide, just like pot, why can't I blame a positive urine screen on a megadose of candy bars?

*Mars*

Hi Mars,  
It's been tried! Unfortunately, chocolate can't lead to a false-positive test. Even spiking urine with anandamides won't do it, so I'm afraid the chocolate defense fails in court. ✨

*Dr. Mitch Earleywine, PhD, is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany and the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana.*

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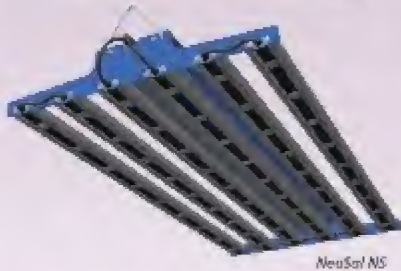
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## Blaming the Detectives

### Conspiracy theorists and freedom of speech

**Salon** really reached a new low by promoting the *Scientific American* article “How Conspiracists Think” by Sander van der Linden, an ambitious young European scholar now working at Yale University.

From the second that Penn Jones’ book on the Kennedy assassination appeared in 1967 (theorizing a plot involving military intelligence and the CIA), its author was subjected to a barrage of abuse. The same sort of treatment was accorded to California reporter Gary Webb when he published evidence of a connection between crack cocaine and our CIA-financed contra army in Central America. And then, that same treatment was given to Maj. Gen. Smedley Butler when he went before Congress to expose the “Business Plot,” a scheme by wealthy industrialists to mount a fascist coup against Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Poor Smedley had no idea of the snake pit he’d wandered into and ended up being derided by papers of record like the *New York Times* as having been the victim of a “gigantic hoax.”

But then, the true history of whistleblowers and independent investigators is never mentioned in van der Linden’s article on “conspiracy theory.” Instead, we’re treated to the usual parade of rabbit holes (fake moon landing, Area 51, Elvis is still alive), most of which were actually created by the Disinfo Entertainment Complex (DEC) so that researchers could be smeared as kooks. And who is running the DEC these days? Why, Alex Jones, of course—and isn’t it predictable that Jones gets ample coverage in *Salon*?

When I first met Jack Herer, both of us were fascinated by the history of ceremonial substances. Jack had already read John Allegro’s groundbreaking book *The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross*, so he really supported the idea of *Amanita muscaria* as the true Christian sacrament, as well as the “Soma” mentioned in the Rig Veda. But I knew this was a con created by Gordon Wasson, in those days a VP at J.P. Morgan & Co.

I never bought into Wasson’s theory. I argued endlessly that cannabis was the

true sacrament of most major religions, and that a corrupt priesthood had introduced mushrooms later on.

Amazingly enough, there are now plans afoot to have “conspiracism” branded as a legitimate mental disorder—so that, for example, anyone who suspects the Boston bombing may have been a false-flag event (because it certainly didn’t benefit Muslims) could in the future be diagnosed as mentally ill and threatened with confinement in a mental institution.

Is this truly the beginning of the end of free speech and free thought in America? If so, the groundwork for this campaign was ironically laid many years ago by former *High Times* contributor John Foster “Chip” Berlet, who now works for the Ford Foundation running a political research company in Boston.

And wouldn’t you know it: the alleged Boston bombers were said to be fans of Alex Jones, who is always presented in *Salon* as “the king of conspiracy,” although that title clearly belongs to Antony Sutton and certainly not to a quack like Jones.

But here’s the hilarious part: The author of the *Scientific American* article on the fake disease of “conspiracism” seems to be dumbfounded as to why so many Americans continue to believe that Lee Harvey Oswald didn’t kill JFK or that the Twin Towers didn’t fall from fire. The obvious answer is that the deceptions are becoming too old, too lazy and too obvious. So you can continue to dismiss the existence of conspiracies and insist that sane people don’t believe they happen, but that doesn’t explain why so much hysteria was manufactured around cannabis right before nylon was put on the market. Or why the dude we installed as the head of Afghanistan gets regular duffel bags of cash courtesy of the CIA and MI6. His brother, by the way, was the biggest opium warlord in the world and—as even *The New York Times* acknowledged—was also on that CIA cash payroll.

And you still don’t believe in conspiracies? ✨

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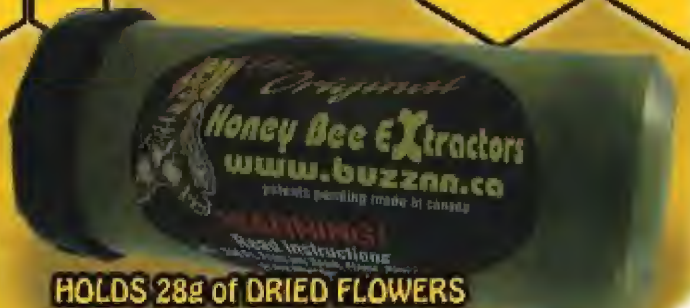
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## Wrecked at Red Rocks

Bobby gets slightly stupid at the 4/20 concert in Colorado.

For most stoners, April 20 is a day devoted to getting baked and celebrating pot culture. For me, however, it's the busiest day of the year—especially this year, since I spent the high holiday running myself ragged at our U.S. Cannabis Cup expo in Denver. By 6 p.m., I was totally stressed and exhausted. Fortunately, I had predicted as much, and so I'd made arrangements with a new pot tourism company called Colorado Green Tours to have a limo transport me, along with some associates, to the Red Rocks Amphitheater for the VIP concert, where I was scheduled to present Cypress Hill and Slightly Stoopid with their respective Doobie Awards onstage.

But after a disagreement with the driver about us blazing in the back (which we eventually won), I was even more stressed than before. To cope with this aggravation—and the anxiety of facing over 10,000 people onstage—I made an admittedly poor decision: I accepted a glass of Johnny Walker Blue from my pal Nico Escondido.

There are two reasons I never drink whiskey. Reason number one: the smell. Ever since I puked my guts up after a Jack Daniels bender at the end of high school, even a slight whiff of whiskey sends waves of nausea throughout my body. At this particular moment, however, my gag reflex seemed to have shut itself off, and ol' Johnny Blue felt like just what the doctor ordered. I started to relax, and my confidence began to build.

Which brings me to the second reason I never drink whiskey: You know that perfect level of buzz, when you're drunk enough to discard your inhibitions and be the life of the party, but not so drunk that you get sloppy and make an ass of yourself? Well, I blew right past that level and proceeded full speed into Asstown.

I was slated to take the stage between the end of Slightly Stoopid's set and their encore. When the time came, Matt from Silverback Music approached me, hesitant to send me out.

"Are you okay?" he asked. "Are you going to be able to do this?"

"Absolutely," I replied, liquid courage in full effect. "I'm raring to go."

Thankfully, I wasn't wrong—and as I strode onto the stage and looked out at the immense crowd before me, I couldn't have felt more like a rock star.

"Stoners of America, let me hear you!" I shouted, and the crowd roared back in return. "I'm here because you guys made this possible—it's because of Colorado that something like this is possible. Before long, the states will fall like dominoes and pot smokers in this country will finally be free, once and for all!"

Watch the award presentation at [high-times.com/doobies420](http://high-times.com/doobies420)



Presenting the Doobie Award to Slightly Stoopid onstage at Red Rocks on 4/20.



"I have the honor of being onstage tonight to present two awards," I continued. "The first, for Pot Song of the Year, goes to Cypress Hill and Rusko for 'Roll It, Light It!'"

Next, I brought out a special guest to present the award to Slightly Stoopid—their biggest fan, my wife April.

"The award for Best Reggae Artist of the Year goes to Slightly Stoopid!" she announced. "Happy 4/20, Denver!"

It was an incredible moment ... and pretty much the last thing I remember from that night. As often happens in life, that dizzying personal pinnacle was followed by an equally catastrophic crash. I awoke the next morning in bed—not mine, but my buddy Ben's. Apparently, upon returning to the hotel, I'd gotten into a spat with April and gone to Ben's room to cool down, then proceeded to accidentally lock him out of his room, drop a log in his toilet, take off my pants and fall asleep in his bed. Sorry about all that, Ben ... and damn you, Johnny Walker! From now on, I'm sticking to what I know and love: beer and weed. 🌿

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# Unwatchable Weed Shows

Cannabis reality shows are hardly real and fall flat with audiences.

Allen St. Pierre is the executive director of NORML. Visit [norml.org](http://norml.org).

**I love cannabis.** I love working in cannabis-law reform. I generally like TV viewing. So why, then, do I—and apparently millions of other cannabis consumers—tune out when it comes to watching the ever-increasing number of cannabis-related programs on the cable networks?

I think the basic answer is simple: They're unwatchable!

The time invested in viewing these so-called "reality" shows would be far better spent working to end cannabis prohibition, helping victims of the current laws, starting a canna-business or just plain enjoying cannabis itself.

Clearly, the networks see a growing interest in the subject: Since 2009, there have been a number of widely hyped nonfiction commercial television programs focusing on cannabis. CNBC aired two documentaries, *Marijuana Inc.* and *Marijuana USA*, which covered the business of medical and recreational pot. Then came *Weed Wars*, which followed the DeAngelo brothers and their operation of the Harborside Health Center in Oakland, CA. And more recently we've had *Weed Country*, an inside look at Northern California's cannabis industry, and the widely panned *Pot Cops*.

In general, however, these latter shows have offered little more than figures in the cannabis industry, self-styled



"activists" and anti-pot cops appearing in a trite and tiresome cops-and-robbers format. Additionally, I'm not comfortable with cops receiving appearance fees.

On the bright side, due to the current unpopularity of cannabis prohibition, the format has been wonderfully turned on its head: The cops come off as "bad guys," while the cannabis "criminals" are definitely the "good guys."

Still, this karmic transformation hasn't saved these shows from dismal ratings and even early cancellation. (The Discovery Channel ended *Weed Wars* after just

five episodes.) On the other hand, CNBC's documentaries scored huge ratings and continue to air; they are also frequently available on airline TV. Industry insiders have called them "cash cows" for the network, which promotes the documentaries as its "most watched of all time."

So the lesson for future television programmers wishing to delve into the world of weed: stick with chronicling the social, cultural and business developments. But what the cannabis community really craves is a drama that everyone will tune in for: *legalization!* ✨

## FREEDOM FIGHTER

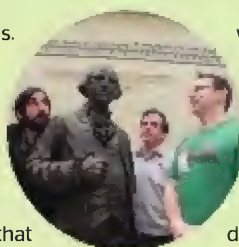
### Three's the Charm

Philly NORML and the Panic Hour unite.

This past April 20, over 500 people gathered at the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia for an event called "Smoke Down Prohibition," with many of the demonstrators openly toking to protest the war on cannabis. But it wasn't the first time this protest occurred—in fact, it was the *fourth* such gathering in as many months, which have largely been due to the efforts of three key individuals and their

respective organizations.

Marijuana legalization has become a prominent topic in Pennsylvania this year. State Senator Daylin Leach introduced a bill that would tax and regulate marijuana, prompting the state's cannabis-law reform activists to become more active than ever before. In March, NORML hosted its first-ever Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference in Philadelphia. Co-hosting the event



were the local regional chapter, Philly NORML, and a local activist comedy group, the Panic Hour. The organizing efforts were led by Philly NORML executive director Kevin Clough, communications director Joe Forte and the Panic Hour's NA Poe. Forte and Clough secured the venue, arranged the on-site registration and, along with Poe, hosted an evening fundraiser with live music, comedy and a silent auction.

Through their partnership, the Panic Hour and Philly NORML have managed to bring hundreds of supporters together for the "Smoke Down" protests, as well as the "Behind the Green Door" concert series and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference.

"We will continue to spread a clear, unambiguous message that the War on Drugs has failed and needs to end," Poe says. "We follow in the tradition of Henry David Thoreau, Nelson Mandela and Dr. Martin Luther King—except we have joints."

by Erik Altieri, NORML communications coordinator





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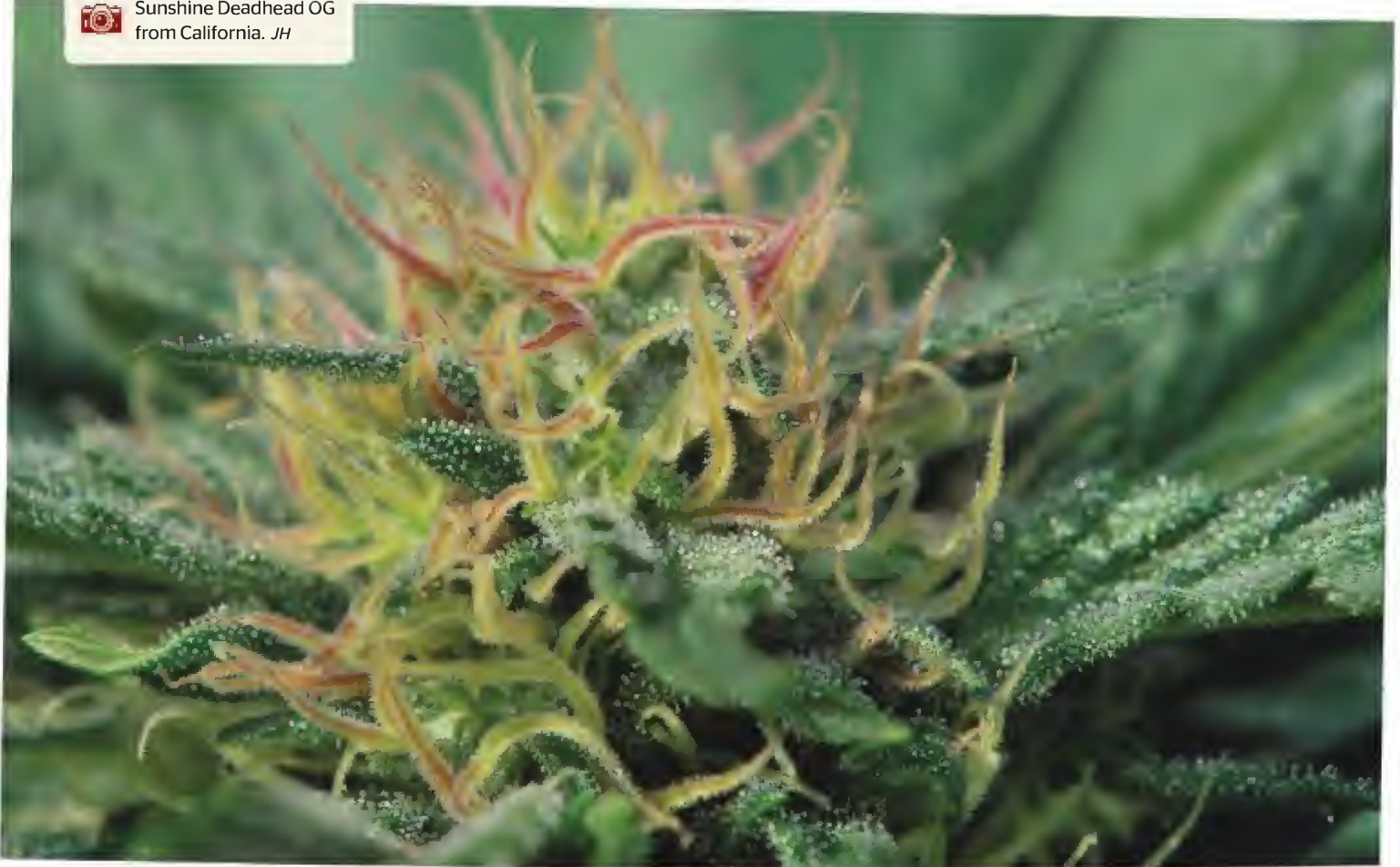
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Check out this perfect top bud of my latest harvest, eh? *Dub*



**GROWER OF THE MONTH**

**Head Stash**

This is a picture of part of my dad's latest crop, this was a single giant bud off of one of his Acapulco Gold plants. Thought you guys would enjoy a look. He calls himself Bud-Head Rudy from Henderson. *Jared*



**COLA OF THE MONTH**

**Into The Light**

Dutch Passion grown indoors, photographed outside. *Quinn*

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► **The Birth of Bubba**

The person known as the Godfather of Bubba Kush reveals the long, dank trip it's been for his phenomenal, highly prized strain.

► **Amsterdam Cannabis Cup Preview**

Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko checks out the politics surrounding the Dutch coffeeshop scene and highlights the upcoming super-strains you can expect to see at the 26th annual High Times Cannabis Cup.

► **Beat the Heat!**

Marijuana cultivation expert Erik Biksa discusses the ins and outs of air circulation and unveils a new technique called CEA (Controlled Environment Agriculture) that optimizes your grow space and cannabis production.

► **The Great Mind Experiment**

Seventy years after the birth of LSD, chemists and pharmacologists continue to explore the psychedelic frontier. Who are these people, and what sorts of compounds are on the horizon for the 21st-century psychonaut?

► **We All Live on a Yayo Submarine**

South American drug smugglers are a creative bunch: They've even developed a crude armada of homemade subs to transport their product to the US. Ever wonder what life might be like on one of these vessels? *High Times* talks to the cocaine captains.

► **High Times Bay Area Medical Cannabis Cup**

Northern Cali, let's see what you got! A cannabis contest featuring contestants from the country's kindest counties! This year's event promises to be epic!



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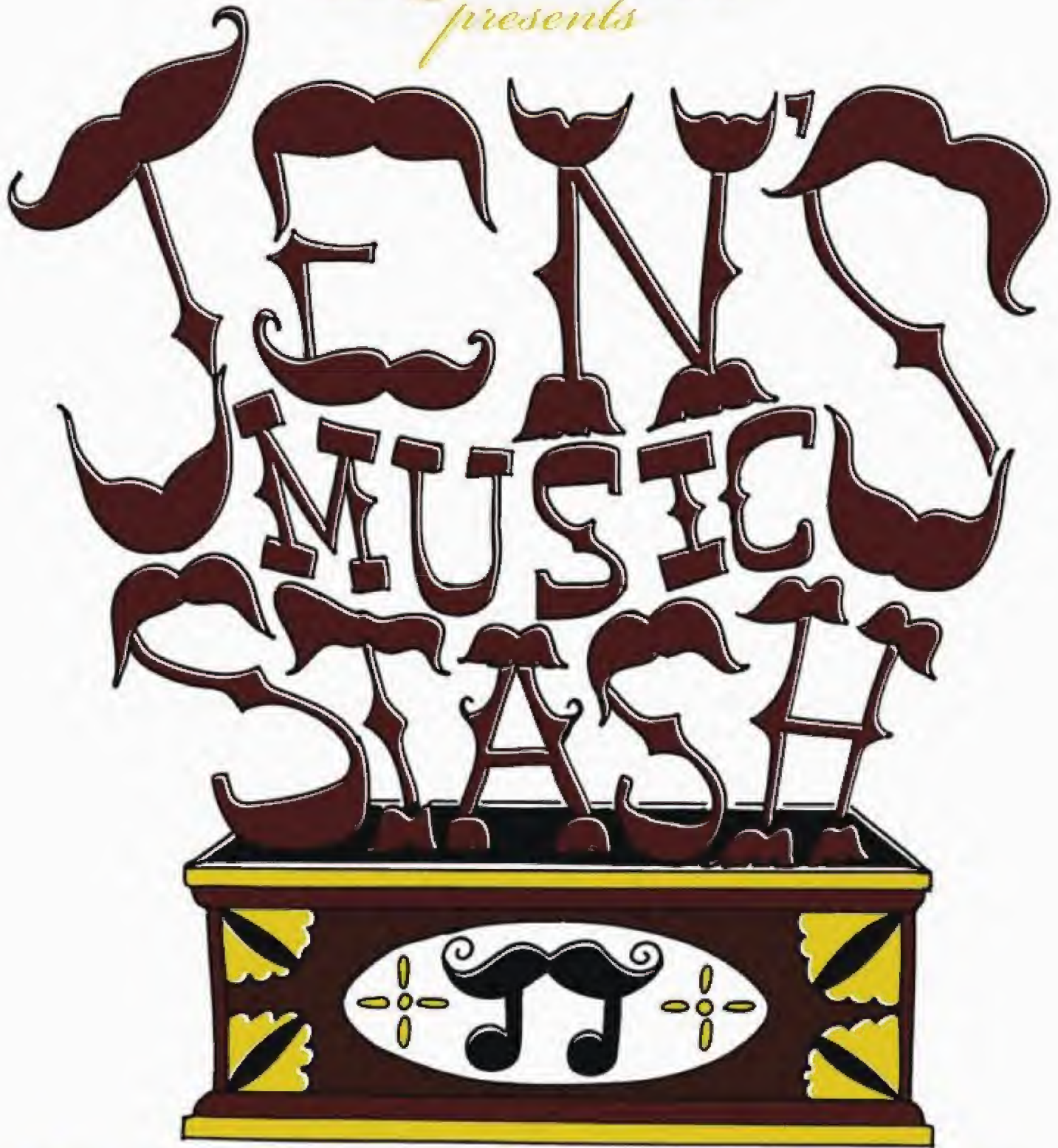


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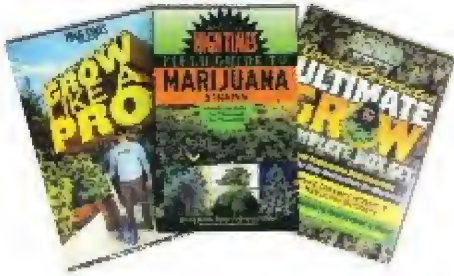
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## Featured Products



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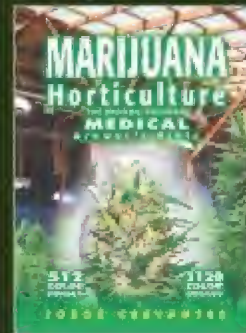


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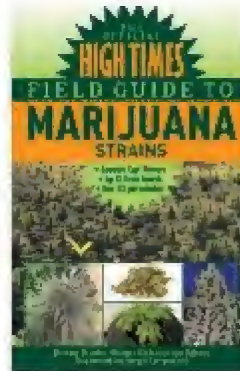


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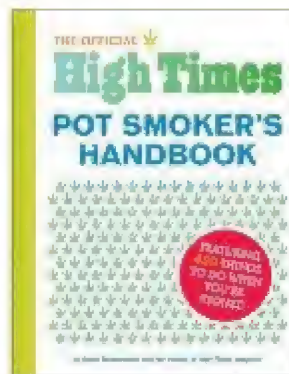
## High Times Books



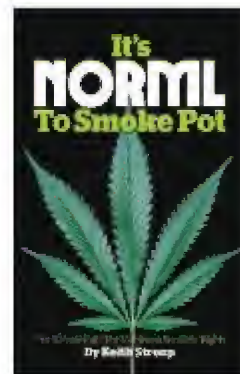
**The Official HIGH TIMES Field Guide to Marijuana Strains**  
By Danny Danko  
This cannabis compendium covers the world's top pot varieties—all meticulously researched and lovingly described in terms ranging from odors and flavors to potency levels and medicinal properties. **\$14.95**



**The Official HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cookbook**  
by Elise McDonough  
Go way beyond the brownie and master your munchies with over 50 recipes for stoner cuisine that will get you high—including recipes inspired by Cheech and Chong, Snoop Dogg and Willie Nelson. **\$19.95**



**The Official HIGH TIMES Pot Smoker's Handbook**  
by David Bienenstock  
This handbook rolls up all of our collected wisdom into one indispensable ganja guide. With a life-changing list of 420 things to do when you're stoned, this is truly the ultimate guide to green living. **\$19.95**



**It's NORML To Smoke Pot: The 40-Year Fight For Marijuana Smokers' Rights**  
By Keith Stroup  
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